2 Ohio men in hot water after prank involving zombie decor, frozen pond: “Everyone was falling for it”

fox6now.com

2 Ohio men in hot water after prank involving zombie decor, frozen pond: “Everyone was falling for it”

Posted 8:41 pm, January 9, 2017, by Katie DeLong, Updated at 08:42PM, January 9, 2017

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP, Ohio — A Facebook prank involving zombie decorations and a frozen pond has landed two men in hot water.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is investigating after one of the men posted photos of fake disfigured heads and other body parts on Facebook, claiming to have stumbled upon real bodies frozen under a pond at East Fork Lake in Clermont County.

In reality, the men were in their backyard in Sycamore Township, playing with the zombie decorations they used for a popular “zombie nativity scene” earlier this year.

“We had a little zombie figure and threw him in the pond and we thought we needed to take a picture of it and post it on my buddy (Dustin Smith’s) Facebook page,” property owner Jasen Dixon said. “He pretended he was camping at East Fork and ran across a body frozen in the ice. We messed with people and everyone was falling for it.”

Several people commented on the post, telling Smith to call police.

Some of the reactions included:

“WTF?”
“You should show the ranger. It could be someone’s loved one they are looking for.”
“What the hell is that?”
“Is this legit? That is crazy.”
“I’d definitely contact the local authorities.”

Sure enough, someone did, Dixon said.

“We kept the joke going for about two hours,” he said. “(Smith) eventually comes clean and said he was just messing with people. But 30 minutes later, he gets a call from (the Department of Natural Resources).”

Dixon said he thought the call was a prank, and Smith initially hung up.

Then they called the number back, and realized the man on the phone was legit.

“I asked for his badge number,” Dixon said. “We called the state and confirmed it was the real deal.”

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Officer Matt Kruse said the case is under investigation. He would not elaborate on any possible charges the men could face and referred WCPO to the department’s media relations line.

Department of Natural Resources spokesperson Matt Eiselstein said law enforcement is “working with the local prosecutor on potential charges” and “at this time, the case remains under investigation.”

Crews have searched East Fork Lake in the past for missing people. A 16-year-old boy’s body was recovered from the lake in July.

This isn’t the first time Dixon has made headlines for his zombie decorations.

The Sycamore Township man made national news in 2014 and 2015 for a zombie nativity scene he built in his backyard during the holidays.

The decorations — which feature an undead baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph and wise men — were initially rejected by the township because they didn’t meet zoning laws. Dixon was threatened with fines and went to court in an effort to keep his decorations up.

The township later allowed Dixon to continue showcasing the zombie decorations without fines.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Church accidentally prints 2Pac lyrics in hymn book during carol concert

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukSunday 25 Dec 2016 10:33 am
The church mistakenly printed the lyrics of 2Pac's Hail Mary instead of the Catholic prayer (Picture: Rex)

Someone probably should have told this church that there's more than a few 'Hail Mary' songs out there.

Like the one by rapper 2Pac.

But the Sri Lankan church found out the hard way after they mistakenly printed his lyrics in a booklet handed out to carolers.

Church-goers had been attended the carols event called 'Joy To The World' in Colombo when the mistake occurred on December 11.

They were meant to be singing a Catholic prayer, also called 'Hail Mary', when they spotted the wrong lyrics.

Pictures have since spread on social media, with people sharing *those* 2Pac's lyrics.

Let's take a little look at them.

> 'I ain't a killer but don't push me Revenge is like the sweetest joy next to getting p*ssy Picture paragraphs unloaded, wise words being quoted Peeped the weakness in the rap game and sewed it Bow down, pray to God hoping that he's listening Seeing niggas coming for me, to my diamonds, when they glistening Now pay attention, rest in peace father I'm a ghost in these killing fields'

We really hope people tried to sing his version!

MetroUK @MetroUK
© 2016 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Official: $4B bond meant as jab at trend of exorbitant bonds

yahoo.com

AP DAVID WARREN
Associated PressFebruary 10, 2017

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas court official said Friday that she imposed a $4 billion bond on a murder suspect as a jab at a "broken" judicial system that too often sets bond so high that defendants are forced to remain in jail.

Bell County Justice of the Peace Claudia Brown said setting exorbitant bonds force too many people to remain in jail until trial. She called the trend "ridiculous."

Brown said she wanted to impose a $100,000 bond on 25-year-old Antonio Marquis Willis when he turned himself in last week, an amount she said most people in the county would have difficulty posting.

But she said she was challenged by law enforcement officials involved in the case who wanted a $1 million bond. Irritated, she then changed the amount to $4 billion.

"I changed the 1 to a 4 and added a whole bunch of zeroes," she told The Associated Press. "At some point in time, I had to alert the system that I am a new judge and I'm committed to changing the system. And this was the perfect time, because this man had come in and turned himself in and they were starting the bail at $1 million."

Willis is charged with first-degree murder in the December death of a man at a house in Killeen, a city about 60 miles north of Austin. An arrest affidavit alleges the man was shot after repeatedly returning to the home after Willis told him to leave. Willis' attorney, Billy Ray Hall Jr., said he hasn't had a chance to review evidence in the case. But he said Willis has told him he's innocent.

A state district judge lowered the bond to $150,000 later Friday. Brown had acknowledged her bond amount could be seen as a constitutional violation, noting that a judge could lower it.

Brown, who was elected to a four-year term in November, told the Temple Daily Telegram that "everything in the system is broken," and she saw Willis' case as illustrating those failings.

Seana Willing, executive director of the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct, said she couldn't speak publicly about a specific case. But she said judicial officials must adhere to rules of conduct, such as conducting themselves outside the courtroom in a way that their actions don't call into question their impartiality.

"We would not ever advocate in our sessions to use due process rights as an opportunity to make a statement," added Thea Whalen, executive director of the Texas Justice Court Training Center, which provides training sessions for justices of the peace who are new to the position. "But that's a personal decision that each judge could make."

Some state policymakers are pushing for reforms that would allow indigent defendants with low-level offenses to get out of jail without posting large amounts of bail money.

According to the Texas Judicial Council, about a quarter of the 41,000 inmates awaiting trial in Texas pose little threat to the public but are incarcerated because they can't afford to post bail. In

some cases, they have been unfairly identified as flight risks, the council said.

A study by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards found that the percentage of inmates waiting for trial 25 years ago was 32 percent. Now it's 75 percent.

Brown, for her part, says she's OK with any criticism that may come her way.

"I will be a fool all day long as long as the system is changed," she said.

___

Follow David Warren on Twitter at https://twitter.com/WarrenJourno

---

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

5 Vampire Serial Killers Who Really Walked The Earth

backpackerverse.com

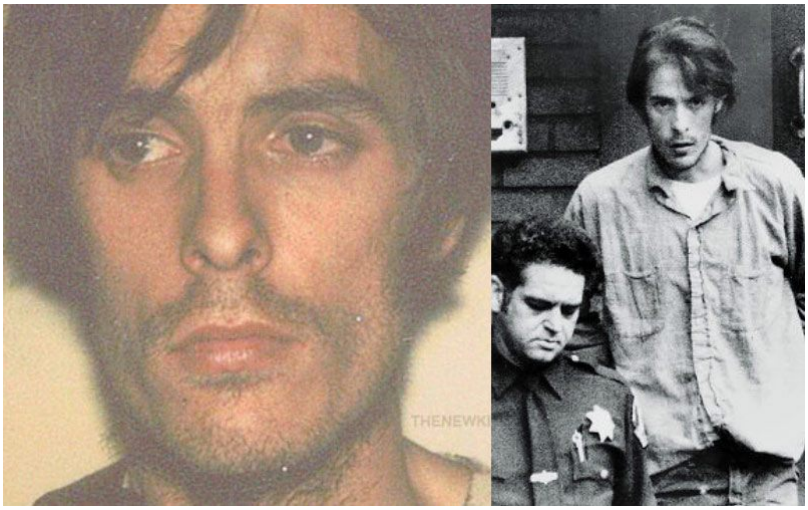
crimewatch / tumblr

The modern concept of the vampire has its roots in early 18th century, Southeastern Balkan and European folklore. Today's vampires took their appearance from 19th century works, like Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' who was depicted as a regal and highly intelligent Count. Seen as powerful and supernatural figures, these modern, romanticized versions are more appealing to those who'd like to exemplify the desirable attributes mixed with their gruesome desires.

Table of Contents [Hide Table of Contents]

- 1) Richard Chase
- 2) Tsutomu Miyazaki
- 3) Fritz Haarmann
- 4) Roderick Ferrell
- 5) James P. Riva

1) Richard Chase



Institutionalized for the first time in 1975 at the age of 25, Chase had spent his teenage years fighting drug and alcohol abuse and was diagnosed as a severe hypochondriac. He later became known as the Vampire of Sacramento, much to his family's surprise. He showed a fascination for blood while under medical care and even went as far as mutilating a rabbit so that he could inject the blood into his own veins.

A few years later, Chase embarked on a killing spree, beginning with a drive by shooting. He then entered random homes wherever he could find an open door. His victim's ages ranged from 22 months to 36 years – six in total. He performed horrifying acts, such as disemboweling them, drinking their blood and eating their flesh. After only one month into his spree, he was apprehended and sentenced to death by gas in 1979, however he beat the authorities to it. He was found dead after overdosing on antidepressants.

Everything in his home, from his blender, to drinking glasses, to the walls, to furniture, and so on…it was all soaked in blood when authorities searched his home.

2) Tsutomu Miyazaki

Known as Dracula, the Otaku Killer and the Little Girl Killer, Miyazaki stalked the Saitama Prefecture, Tokyo between the years 1988 to 1989. He had been known as a depressed young man who suffered from an inferiority complex. He was also known as a serial killer who mutilated and murdered schoolgirls between the ages of 4 to 7 years old. It was noted that Miyazaki also drank the blood of one of his victims and even ate pieces of her hands.

Miyazaki taunted the victim's parents by writing and sending them details of how he tortured and murdered them, which led to his arrest. Sentenced to death and hanged in 2008, he never showed any remorse.

3) Fritz Haarmann

Haarmann was a part time burglar and thief, known as the Butcher or the Vampire of Hanover after more than twenty young men and boys were killed between the years 1918 – 1924. He would bring his victims to his apartment under a ruse, telling them that he would feed them well. He then plied them with alcohol before killing them by sinking his teeth into their trachea and chopping their bodies up. Then he threw their remains into the Leine River and sell their belongings.

Unsubstantiated reports state that he even ate some of their flesh and sold the rest on the Black Market – telling his unsuspecting buyers that it was animal flesh. Haarmann was executed in 1925. Still remembered in Germany, he is infamous for his utter evil acts and large number of victims. His preserved head is kept in a jar for scientific study in Germany.

4) Roderick Ferrell

Ferrell contrasts the others in this list, as he was a leader of a vampire group – named "Vampire Clan" – after his obsessive involvement in a popular underground role playing game called Vampire: the Masquerade. Claiming that he was a vampire with the name of 'Vesago', Ferrell stated that was hundreds of years old. He led the group in rituals where the participants drank each other's blood.

In 1996, Ferrell and three of the group's members drove to Heather Wendorf's home. She was a long-time friend of Ferrell's and they killed her parents – Richard Wendorf and Naomi Queen – with a crowbar, effectively beaten to death. Ferrell burned a V for vampire into Richard's chest. Then the four went to New Orleans to visit their favorite video arcade. When captured, Ferrell advised that they wouldn't be able to contain him but he was charged with murder and sentenced to death. This

was later changed to life without parole.

5) James P. Riva

Riva shot his grandmother with gold bullets and then stabbed her in the heart in 1980. Then he drank her blood. He burned the house down after he realized what he'd done. Once captured, he advised that his motive was due to his belief that he was a 700 year old vampire, who needed to drink his elder's blood in order to survive. He also believed that doing so would make him more wealthy and handsome. Spoiler alert: It didn't work.

Later on, Riva changed his story, telling authorities that the slaying of his grandmother was self-defense. He stated that she had been coming to him in his sleep to drain his blood. It bears noting that Riva had spent some time in mental institutions after it was discovered that he had been drinking the blood of animals. Charged with murder and arson, Riva was sentenced to life in prison.

Source: the-line-up.com

Copyright 2016 Backpackerverse.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Download your free audio edition of BBC History Magazine LOG IN REGISTER

In association with BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE

6 strange newspaper stories that shocked Victorian Britain

Think of the Victorians as straight-laced and boring? Think again – nothing captured the imagination of 19th-century readers like the strange, macabre and bizarre.

In extracts taken from *Strange Victoriana: Tales of the Curious, the Weird and the Uncanny* from our Victorian Ancestors, Jan Bondeson highlights six of the most sensationalist, sinister and downright ridiculous Victorian newspaper stories, from fighting ghosts to scantily clad sleepwalkers…

Friday 13th January 2017 Submitted by: Ellie Cawthorne

BBC History Magazine - 5 issues for £5

The somnambulist Miss Charlton falls from a roof in an illustration from the Illustrated Police News, 17 April 1897. (Illustrated Police News/Jan Bondeson)

Somnambulists in peril

The Victorians in general, and readers of the weekly newspaper the *Illustrated Police News* (*IPN*) in particular, had a fascination with the mobile but unconscious female body. Sleepwalkers, or 'somnambulists' as the Victorians called them, were among the favourite subjects for the IPN's bawdy-minded draughtsmen. Male

HistoryExtra Newsletter

Sign up now to get the latest history quizzes, podcasts, features, news, galleries and reviews straight to your inbox.

Type your email address here...

SIGN UP!

By clicking on the 'Sign Up!' button, you are agreeing to History Extra's terms & conditions. You can opt-out at any time.

Latest on Twitter

@HistoryExtra: How did the East India Company grow into a dominating global player with its own 'army'? https://t.co/oEaVzlolRu... https://t.co/dxyYPq2uU5

@HistoryExtra: BBC drama #Taboo portrays the East India Company as a mighty & villainous organisation. What was the reality?... https://t.co/RY8JATtEjq

MOST READ LISTENED TO

The East India Company: How a trading corporation became an imperial ruler

History quiz – shambles, soldiers and medieval towns

TV & radio: what to tune into next week (14–20 January 2017)

6 strange newspaper stories that shocked Victorian Britain

A history of Istanbul

Podcast

A history of Istanbul

somnambulists may have been news, but they were never *Illustrated Police* news, even if they performed a tap-dance on the roof of the House of Lords; the *IPN*'s somnambulists were all young, female, and scantily clad.

One of the earliest *IPN* somnambulists was the 17-year-old Clara Dalrymple, from a small village near Glastonbury. She was well known to often go walking in her sleep, but in May 1868, she rose from her bed in her bedroom on the second floor and walked out on a plank that a workman had put between her father's house and the one opposite. She fell, but her dress caught in a lamp-post and she was saved. Madame Broneau, a French somnambulist, was less fortunate: she fell to her death in Belfast after walking out on the roof.

In 1885, a Kidderminster police constable heard screams from the roof of a house, and he observed a young lady somnambulist, dressed only in her night-shirt, who had got through a window out onto the roof, where she awoke. Her father and the police constable threw her a rope, and she was rescued from her perilous position. Finally, in 1897, somnambulist Miss Charlton took a walk on the parapet of her family's house in Manchester, with a lighted candle in her hand. Fortunately, she fell only four feet, onto the flat roof of a neighbouring property, and thus survived her ordeal without any permanent harm.

The Kidderminster somnambulist is saved; from the IPN, 8 August 1885. (Illustrated Police News/Jan Bondeson)

The 'Plumstead Ghost', 1897

In October 1897, many people saw a 'ghost' flitting about near St James's Church and school, Plumstead. Sensitive little girls had fainted when the white spectre approached them; some were still in bed, said the *Daily News*, suffering from nervous exhaustion. A timid schoolmaster had been frightened out of his wits when the 'Plumstead Ghost' suddenly grabbed hold of him from behind and shouted 'Boo-hah!' at the top of its voice. An old couple visiting the churchyard

Listen now

Quiz

History quiz – shambles, soldiers and medieval towns

Read more on this subject

First World War Christmas cards

Shakespeare's London: playing a dangerous game

In pictures: Indigenous Australia

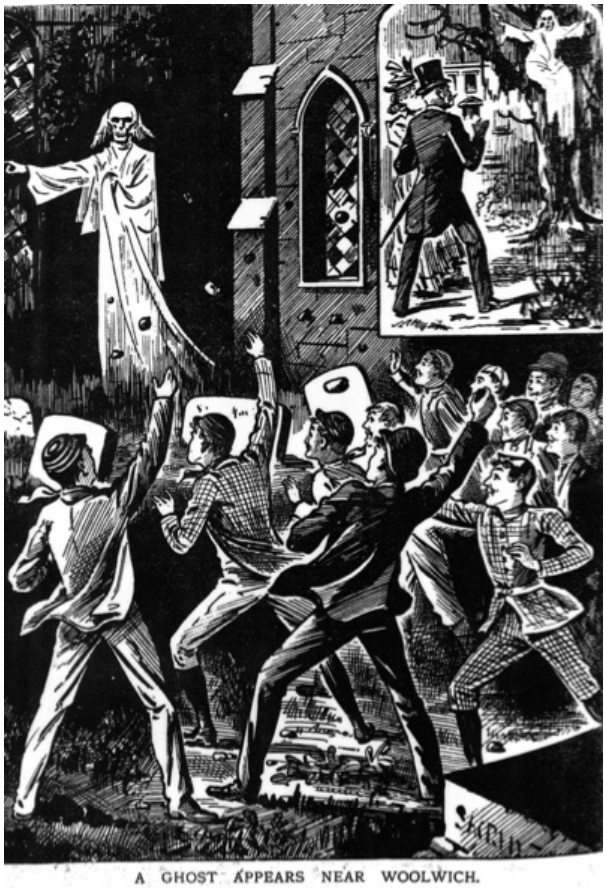
How Roman was Britain?

received a similar shock when the ghost hailed them from a tree, making use of the same uncouth outcry.

When another schoolmaster was taking an evening walk, he heard rustling in the hedges nearby, and a shout of “Boo-hah!” He had brought with him a large Newfoundland dog, which he set on the spectre. Since the master distinctly heard the ghost give a yelp when the dog’s fangs made contact with its buttocks, he became convinced that the Plumstead Ghost was flesh and blood. He spoke to both masters and schoolboys, asking them not to be fearful, but to teach the ghost a hard lesson if they came across it.

The rowdy schoolboys decided to do just that. One evening, after scouts had reported that the ghost was at large, a troop of schoolboys, a hundred strong, stormed the churchyard. Shouting and yahooing, they pelted the ghost with stones, but without scoring any hits on the absconding spectre. Instead, their missiles broke some valuable stained glass. Pursued by the Newfoundland dog, the ghost was seen to disappear into the hedges.

The schoolboys had been so rowdy that the police arrested two of the ringleaders and brought them to Woolwich, but after the masters had explained the extraordinary circumstances of their riot, they were both discharged. The evening after, the Plumstead Ghost was seen in the grounds of Mr JR Jolly. Arrayed in white attire, and wearing some kind of grotesque mask, the spectre was sitting in a tree, shouting its usual “Boo-hah!” to frighten some female domestics. Mr Jolly was not at all amused: he sent for the police and the ghost was arrested. It turned out that the spectre’s white garb had been torn, and his buttocks badly bruised, from his two encounters with the fierce Newfoundland dog. He turned out to be a local engineer. He was placed under restraint in an asylum, and the Plumstead Ghost was laid to rest.



A GHOST APPEARS NEAR WOOLWICH.
SCHOOLBOYS ENJOY THE SPORT OF PELTING IT.

The 'Plumstead Ghost' is pelted by schoolboys; from the IPN, 6 November 1897. (Illustrated Police News/Jan Bondeson)

Andrian, the ‘Dog-Faced Man’, 1874

In 1874, the London newspapers announced that two of the greatest human curiosities of the present age had arrived at the Metropolitan Music Hall in Edgware Road: Andrian the Russian ‘Dog-faced Man’ and his son, Fedor. A reporter and a draughtsman from the *IPN* were present to provide a feature about them. The 55-year-old Andrian was a quiet, morose individual, who spoke only Russian. He was of medium height, strongly built, and dressed in not very clean-looking Russian garments. His eyes were a curious yellow, and his skin an unhealthy grey. Andrian reportedly resembled a man half changed into an animal, a spectacle destined to strike horror into Victorian people; his face was entirely covered with hair, like that of a Skye terrier.

A doctor was impressed to see Andrian drink a pint of undiluted vodka with relish, as he carved his beefsteak at the exhibition. The showman said that, ever since he had first put Andrian on show before the curious in St. Petersburg, Paris and Berlin the year before, he had vowed to return to his native village as soon as his tour of the European capitals was over, and to spend all the money he had earned entirely on strong drink. According to another, slightly more prepossessing version, Andrian was a devout member of the Russo-Greek Church. Since others in that faith had told him that he must surely have been cursed by the devil, poor Andrian reportedly spent all his money on the purchase of prayers from a devout community of monks near Kostroma, “hoping one day to be able to introduce his frightful countenance in the court of heaven”, as the exhibition pamphlet flippantly expressed it.

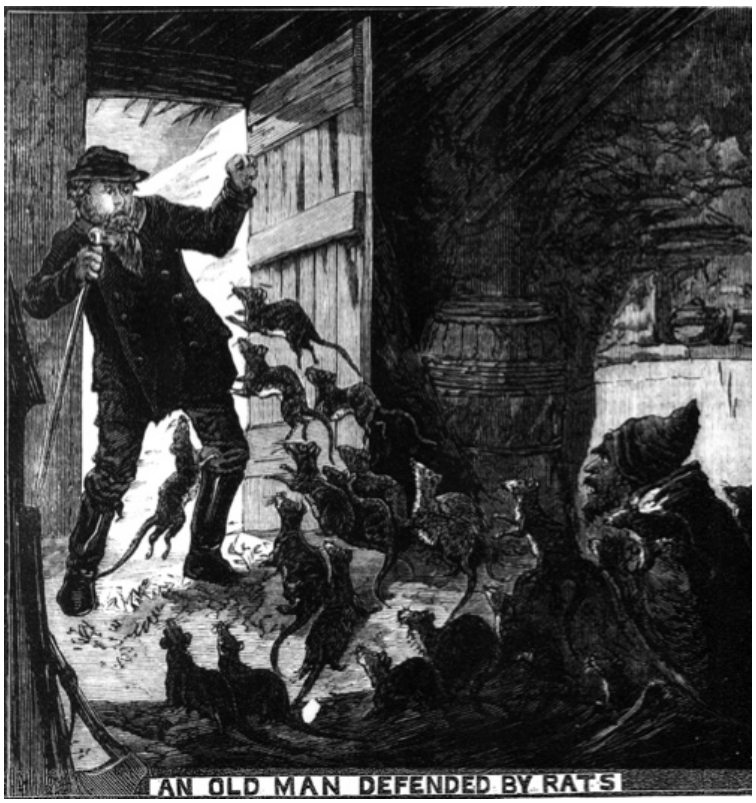
Andrian and Fedor remained in London until early April 1874, and then spent ten days in Liverpool. According to the *Liverpool Mercury*, the jolly young Fedor pointed at the bald head of a doctor in the audience, and suggested that it would have been an improvement if some of the hair on his own face could have been transferred to the savant’s bald pate. Andrian died later in 1874, probably from cirrhosis of the liver brought on by his excessive drinking of spirits. Fedor later enjoyed a distinguished career in the American sideshow, under the name of Jo-Jo the ‘Dog-faced Boy’, touring the world with Barnum & Bailey’s ‘Greatest Show on Earth’ until his death, from pneumonia, in 1912.

Andrian the 'Dog-faced Man' and his son: an original drawing from the IPN, 7 February 1874. (Illustrated Police News/Jan Bondeson)

A Welsh hermit defended by rats, 1879

In January 1879, an old man named Joseph Mason was prosecuted for failing to support his wife, and leaving her chargeable to the Aberystwyth union workhouse. It turned out that he had deserted her and become a hermit up in the mountains, miles above the lead mines of Goginan. After the workhouse had appealed to the Llanbadarn Fawr petty sessions, an officer named Jones was sent out to track down the 70-year-old Mason, described as a former shoemaker. At Goginan, the mountain men directed Jones toward Mason's abode, far up beyond the old mines and the village. After a good deal of searching, he finally found the hermitage, which was in the most miserable condition. Although the locals had warned Jones not to approach the angry, unpredictable hermit, he bravely opened the door. Looking around the gloomy, unlit interior, he could see a heap of turf on the floor of this wretched dwelling, and also some rags that served Mason as a bed. In a corner, he could only just make out the sinister-looking, hunched old hermit glaring at him.

But there was something else – an army of large rats scurrying about. Jones stamped his foot to scare the rodents away, but instead they attacked him, leaping up and biting at his trousers. Having received the shock of his life from the furious rodents, Jones was put to headlong fright. According to the Welsh mountain men, the old hermit had "tamed and trained his strange companions during his sojourn in the mountains, and encouraged them into his house." Since Joseph Mason was on the verge of starvation himself, the charge against him was dismissed. It does not seem to have occurred to any person that perhaps he was in need of some help himself, sitting alone in his wretched hermitage above Goginan, with only his rats for company.



Joseph Mason is defended by his army of rats; from the IPN, 11 January 1879. (Illustrated Police News/Jan Bondeson)

The 'Fighting Ghost of Tondu', 1904

In 1904, the Welsh village of Tondu acquired a sinister inhabitant. For some time, there had been talk of the disused colliery at Ynisawdre being haunted. On an early September morning, some workmen saw a tall spectre, shrouded in white, in the neighbourhood of Felinfach. When the 'ghost' glided towards them with a drawn-out "Booh!", its great black sockets that took the place of eyes fixed straight ahead, all twelve sturdy Welsh miners took to their heels. When they finally dared to look back, the ghost had disappeared.

Not long after, another Welshman was taking a midnight walk down the lonely, narrow road adjoining the deserted buildings and coke ovens of the abandoned Ynisawdre colliery. At the far end of a tunnel he was astonished to see a tall, cadaverous figure waiting for him. The head resembled a skull covered with wrinkled parchment; the eyes were hollow sockets, with a cavernous glow. Suddenly, the ghost ran up to the terrified Welshman, its long arms outstretched. It grasped him with a hearty goodwill, with such a vice-like grip that he could hardly breathe. When he tried to grapple with this singular ghost, his hands met

the *South Wales Echo*.

Village ghosts were not unknown in this part of Wales, but they used to be timid and unadventurous, behaving with becoming *decorum* and keeping a safe distance to human beings. Although this novel spectre was draped in white, the proper attire for any self-respecting ghost, and made use of the equally orthodox outcry "Booh!", it seemed much more combative, putting twelve strong men to flight, and then successfully wrestling another. A servant girl had recently seen the Fighting Ghost stalking the ruins of the abandoned colliery at Ynisawdre, uttering dismal

groans and waving its arms about. The women and children of Tondu were kept indoors after nightfall, and bands of stalwart men, armed with bludgeons and pitchforks, patrolled the country roads to lay the Fighting Ghost.

It would appear as if the short career of the Fighting Ghost of Tondu ended in late September 1904, after it had been immortalized in the *IPN* and other publications. Its likely origin is the same as other 'suburban' or 'village' spectres (ignoring the sad fate of the Hammersmith Ghost of 1814, who was shot dead by an armed ghost-hunter): some prankster amused himself through dressing up as a ghost and frightening timid and superstitious people in the neighbourhood. Although the annals of the *IPN* provide several instances of 'suburban ghosts' being caught, beaten up, or mauled by fierce dogs, the Fighting Ghost of Tondu seems to have been spared such indignities; there is no mention of its activities after September 1904.

The Fighting Ghost of Tondu on the charge; from the IPN, 17 September 1904. (Illustrated Police News/Jan Bondeson)

Dick Schick, the 'female errand-boy', 1886

In January 1886, a cheeky-looking young lad who gave his name as Dick Schick was employed as an errand-boy by Messrs Goodman & Davis, the Oxford Street tailors. Dick said that he was 15 years old, and that since his mother's work as a furrier could not support the family, he decided to get a job himself. Dick seemed an honest and upright young lad, and although he had a fondness for drinking and smoking at various pubs [illegible] the thefts continued. One day, Mr Davis saw that the dapper-looking Dick Schick was wearing a pair of trousers and a waistcoat made from his own stolen material.

Back to top

Why not try: 10 weird and wonderful historical newspaper stories More
BBC World Histories Magazine | History Topics | Quiz | Podcast | News | Search the site...

After being fired by Goodman & Davis in June 1886, Dick quickly secured another job as an errand-boy, this time for the respectable glover Frederick Noble Jones, of Burlington Arcade. When gloves and other garments started disappearing, Dick became a suspect. This time, the cunning Dick wrote an anonymous note blaming another boy, but after this individual had been dismissed, the thieving continued. One day in October, Mr Jones got the idea to compare the anonymous letter with

some of Dick's handwriting; they were an excellent match. The police raided the Schick lodgings and found some of the missing garments, along with 40 pawn tickets for other items of clothing. This was not the only noteworthy discovery of the day, however; when examined by a doctor, 'Dick' turned out to be a woman. The 20-year-old Miss Lois Schick had successfully masqueraded as a 15-year-old London errand-boy for nearly a year.

There was a good deal of writing about the 'female errand-boy' in the London newspapers. Motivated by a mixture of sensationalism and vague proto-feminist sentiments, the rabble-rousing editor WT Stead tried to put a spin on the 'Dick Schick' case: was it not a shame that young women were so discriminated against, and had young Lois Schick not been forced by poverty to don male attire? Some other newspapers followed suit, calling young Lois a brave lass, who had just wanted to get a job and support her family. In an interview, Mrs Schick praised her daughter for helping to save her younger siblings from starvation. There was even a Schick Relief Fund, organized by the solicitor Bernard Abrahams; in its first week, it collected £10.

When Lois Schick was charged with theft at the Marlborough-street police court on October 13 1886, she seemed quite undeterred by having to wear her male attire in court. The momentum was clearly against her, however: in relentless testimony, her career of dishonesty was exposed. In particular, it was considered 'not cricket' that this artful young woman had twice successfully framed other errand-boys for the thefts, causing them to be dismissed from their jobs. An uncharitable clergyman pointed out that the Schick family had been supported by the parish for some time, that Lois' younger sister Mary had found employment without resorting to cross-dressing, and that Lois had actually posed as 'a nephew' for four years or more. At the Middlesex Sessions, Lois Schick was sentenced to eight months in prison with hard labour, for stealing articles to the value of £75.

Back to top

Why not try: 10 weird and wonderful historical newspaper stories More

BBC World Histories Magazine | History Topics | Quiz | Podcast | News | Search the site...

These extracts are taken from *Strange Victoriana: Tales of the Curious, the Weird and the Uncanny from our Victorian Ancestors* by Jan Bondeson (Amberley, 2016).

Article Type: | **BBC History Magazine** | **Culture** | **Social history** | **United Kingdom** | **Victorians** | **Weird and wonderful** | **Feature** |

Like that? Try these:

- 10 weird and wonderful historical newspaper stories
- 9 astonishing deaths reported in Victorian newspapers
- History quiz - newspaper headlines
- 5 hidden killers of the Victorian home
- 7 Victorian jokes have been given a modern twist - and they're hilarious
- 8 weird and wonderful Victorian discoveries
- A Victorian murder and a ship that made history
- A grave dilemma: death in the Victorian age
- 7 Victorian recipes

David Bowie's life in pictures

Previous Article

TV & radio: what to tune into next week (14–20 January 2017)

Next Article

0 Comments History Extra Login

Recommend Share Sort by Best

Start the discussion…

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add Privacy

3C Worldwide, which helps fund new BBC programmes.

© Immediate Media Company Ltd. 2017

View mobile site

10 Creepy Things to See at the Louvre That Are Better Than the Mona Lisa - Medievalists.net

medievalists.net

February 10, 2015 by Sandra Alvarez

By Sandra Alvarez

I went to the Louvre on Wednesday, and as every tourist does, I did the rounds. i.e., the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo. I have to say, all the hubbub over these two items left me scratching my head. To get to the Mona Lisa, you have to go into the Italian Painting section, pass by a few Botticelli's, Giotto, Cimabue, and some of Leonardo's better work (in my opinion) like St. John the Baptist. People just blast by these incredible pieces of art as if they were post it notes just to cram into a room to see a painting of a rather plain, barely smiling girl. It boggles my mind. I have been to the Louvre before, when I was in university years ago, in a galaxy far, far away. I thought maybe I hadn't given it a fair shake in my early 20s, so I'd diligently try again and attempt to see what others see in these two items. And…nothing. I was rather unimpressed. It was impossible to get a close look at the Mona Lisa and when I finally did, she just didn't do it for me. Same with the Venus de Milo. It was in a room full of incredible sculptures and I thought, "Why all the flap about this armless wonder?" If you're an ancient historian, a medievalist, or early modernist, there are so many other amazing pieces and works of art a the Louvre other than these two tourist staples. Here is my list of cool, creepy, unusual and better than the Mona Lisa at the Louvre in Paris.

The Creepy Tomb of Philippe Pot: (1428-1493), Grand Sénéchal of Burgundy, Knight of the Golden Fleece

40695fa3-595c-4621-8241-b85e3c27ab1e

Grandson of a Crusader, diplomat, and astute politician. Philippe Pot made his mark on the French monarchy throughout the 15th century. He helped arrange several strategic marriage alliances and obtained the release of Charles, Duke of Orléans (1394 – 1465) from captivity in London. He was known as a powerful statesman and eloquent speaker, earning him the nickname "the mouth of Cicero". His striking effigy can be found in the Louvre's medieval section. It's quite creepy to be honest, but remarkable for its vivd colour and haunting imagery. Dementors, Ringwraiths or Jawas – you decide…

Statue of Death from Saint Innocents Cemetery – Île-de-France (circa 1530)

This frightening image of Death found at the Louvre once stood at the centre Saint Innocents cemetery in Paris. The cemetery was known for housing mass graves and was in use from the High Middle Ages until 1780, when it was closed due to overuse. In 1786, the bones were moved to the Catacombs in Montparnasse. I visited the Catacombs while I was in Paris and was able to see why why they had to move the remains – there are so many bones it's unbelievable!

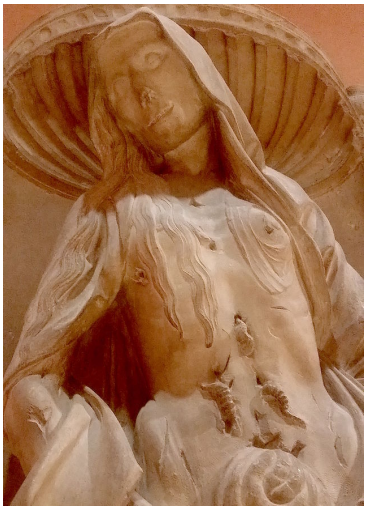
The Ruthless Regent: Catherine de Medici (Catherine de Médicis)

345701e6-4e81-4e0e-8a1a-71500ef83a9a

Catherine de Medicine – Louvre

Catherine de Medici (1519 – 1589) was the wife of King Henry II of France (1519 – 1559). She was born into the powerful Florentine Medici banking family and married Henry at the age of fourteen. Her marriage was quite the sham; Henry openly took a mistress early on, Diane de Poitiers, a woman almost twenty years his senior. Catherine was forced to sit on the sidelines until Henry's accidental death at a jousting tourney in 1559. Catherine promptly banished Diane de Poitiers after his death and began her career as a ruthless regent for her three sons, all of whom died young: Francis II (1544 – 1560), Charles IX (1550 – 1574) and Henry III (1551 – 1589). She was blamed some of their actions, like the infamous Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572. She survived two of her sons and died 8 months before Henry III's death at the hands of an assassin. Although she died in 1589, she commissioned this impressive funerary statue of herself in 1565 by Italian artist, Girolamo della Robbia (1488-1566). The statue now sits in the Louvre's medieval section.

The Creepy Corpse of Joanna of Bourbon a.k.a. Jeanne de Bourbon-Vendôme, contesse de Boulogne et d'Auvergne (1465-1521)



cf729dc5-915c-40ff-89ce-959c35441c81

Here we have Catherine de Medici's grandmother! It looks like not only Catherine got a raw deal in the marriage department – Joanna was 22 when she married 61 year old John II, Duke of Bourbon (1426 – 1488) in 1487! He died the following year and a still young Joanna remarried at age 30 to John III, Duke of Auvergne (1467 – 1501) on January 11 1495. Their daughter Madeleine (1498 – 1519) was Catherine de Medici's mother. Her tomb caught my eye with its grotesque depiction of death. Joanna looks serene while her entrails are worms spill out of her desiccated body. Disturbing, yet lovely at the same time. Worth seeing while you visit the Louvre.

Headless Hagiography: St. Valerie of Limoges (Sainte Valérie)

It's not every day you see someone carrying their head, so this statue made me do a double take. Who was St. Valerie? She was a Roman period martyr since headless saints were "a thing" then. The story is that she was forced to marry a Pagan and when she refused, she was beheaded. That's a pretty harsh way to take rejection. She then carried her head before the bishop who converted her. Head carrying saints were common in France, most notably, France's patron, Saint Denis was part of this cephalophoric club. This alarming statue at the Louvre depicts St. Valerie holding her head accompanied by two angels.

7d3a9f97-3d8f-423e-b475-da2de75b112f

St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata – Giotto (1295-1300)

d54705b2-8764-4d9d-bbe1-c47f590f9acc

En route to the Mona Lisa, you pass by this amazing painting from the Life of St. Francis by Florentine master, Giotto di Bondone (1266 – 1337). Sadly, too many people pass right by it in their rush to the Mona Lisa room. I noticed it right away as Giotto's work was something I enjoyed studying in back in university. Giotto was a student of famed Italian artist Cimabue (1240 – 1302), who discovered him drawing pictures of sheep. He took Giotto under his wing and became his teacher. Giotto supposedly painted the frescoes in the Upper Church of St. Francis of Assisi but the controversy surrounding this has been raging for many years. Did he? Didn't he? Hopefully, one day we will know. Until then, this painting by Giotto, depicts St. Francis receiving the stigmata from Christ at Mount Alverno.

A Medieval Mystery at the Louvre: The Children of Edward – Paul Delaroche

e96e7c89-f870-4aa8-8f2d-3ad0de162ef7

What medievalist doesn't know this story? The sad tale of the two Princes, Edward V and the Duke of York, aged 12 and 9, possibly murdered by their insidious uncle, Richard III. Richard III usurped the throne from Edward V in 1483 and had him and his brother declared illegitimate. I spotted this immediately – once again, few people did. It's one of the great medieval mysteries. Although the painting itself isn't medieval, as it was painted by French historical artist Paul Delaroche (1797 – 1856), it's a medieval topic that has been hotly debated by scholars for many years. Was it Richard III? Were their bodies found at the Tower of London in 1674? Or were their bodies really found in Windsor Castle in 1789? So many questions left unanswered. A fascinating picture well worth a history buff's time at the Louvre.

Angry Angels: The Master of the Angels Rebels (Maitre des Anges Rebelles), second half of the 14th century

This small, but incredible painting is easily missed if you don't keep an eye out for it. It depicts the rebellion of Lucifer and the fall of the angels from Heaven. This painting has some pretty stunning detail, colour and imagery. It was a popular topic to depict in art during the Middle Ages.

Jail break! Saint Ranierius – il Sassetta, a.k.a Stefano di Giovanni

George Jetson? A ghost? No. It's Saint Ranierius painted by famous medieval Sienese artist il Sassetta (1392-1450). While this is neither scary or macabre – it's definitely weird looking. So

d7bf34ed-1968-48d4-bdad-65e4bafbb794

f1892b00-56f0-4b86-b87b-44c6b8f7e425

what's going on here? My French isn't great and at first glance I thought these folks were fleeing a ghost or a monk with a jet pack. It's actually Saint Ranierius freeing 90 poor people from a Florentine prison after they had written to him for aid. He appears to be flying and he's definitely missing half his body. Sassetta painted this piece in Siena in 1426. It's a curious painting and worth a second glance if you're in the Italian section of the Louvre.

Knife in the Head Guy, a.k.a St. Peter of Verona, Saint Peter the Martyr

8b7d5d8c-9412-4a9e-9586-248eb08e9ba8

Macabre much? Saint Peter was a celebrated Dominican Inquisitor who preached extensively throughout Italy against the Cathars. He was apparently very good at his job because he managed to covert many Cathars back to the Catholic fold. So why is this saint repeatedly depicted with an axe in his head? Well, after poaching a lot of their followers, the Cathars weren't too happy with Peter so they hired an assassin, Carino of Balsamo, to kill him. On April 6, 1252, just outside Milan, Carino split Peter's head with an axe. Peter, being the dedicated guy that he was, managed to recite the Apostle's Creed and write the first parts of the Nicene Creed in his blood, before dying. Carino then fled to a Dominican monastery repenting his evil deed and eventually becoming a lay Dominican brother. It appears he was never punished for the crime and eventually, given even a feast day!

Filed Under: Features, Places To See Tagged With: Art in the Middle Ages, Catherine de Medici, Cimabue, Dominican, Early Modern, Fifteenth Century, Florence, France, Franciscan, Giotto, Italian, Italy, Late Middle Ages, Leonardo da Vinci, Louvre, Medici, Medieval burials, Mendicant Orders, Monasticism, Museums, Paris, Places to See, Religious Life, Renaissance, Sixteenth Century, St. Francis of Assisi, Thirteenth century

Medieval News

Copyright © 2017 ·

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

10 things you probably don't know about pasta

mnn.com

The history of this beloved food is incredibly fascinating.

Starre Vartan
January 5, 2017, 9:21 a.m.

Although I grew up in New York with many Italian-American friends and have eaten my way around Italy a couple of times, it wasn't until I opened Julia della Croce's book, "Pasta Classica: The Art of Italian Cooking," that I realized how much I didn't know about the history of this food.

My knowledge was limited to knowing that somehow, the different shapes for pasta were supposed to go with different sauces, and that Marco Polo had brought pasta to Italy from his voyage to China — only it turns out both of these "facts" are incorrect! I didn't know how much I had to learn.

I made a list of some of real facts I discovered, and if you want to learn more, you can read an excerpt from the history chapter of della Croce's book, which contains much more than the details listed here, and from which the longer quotes here are taken.

1. Pasta was being eaten throughout the world long before Marco Polo was born. Polo made his trip to China in 1269, returning to Venice 24 years later. But pasta was being eaten in Sicily in 1154, and some version of pasta may have been eaten by the Greeks as early as 1 AD. There are numerous (and sometimes conflicting) historical accounts of pasta being eaten throughout the Middle East (in the Jerusalem Talmud in 5 A.D.), the Mediterranean and various parts of Asia — all prior to Polo's trip and going back hundreds and even thousands of years.

2. The first pasta dish people ate was probably lasagne. In a third century recipe book compiled by Roman noble and noted gourmet Marcus Apicius, he described a dish made with layers of laganon, which is a broad noodle similar to what we think of as lasagne noodles today — the laganon were used to make a filled and layered pie in Apicus' description. And as Corby Kummer describes in an Atlantic article that also delves into the history of pasta, "Marco Polo spoke of *lasagne*, which then meant 'noodles,' to describe what he saw, which indicates that he was already familiar with the food."

3. Pasta secca (dried pasta) helped our ancestors explore the world. Whether it was a long caravan ride through desert terrain or a long voyage by ship, dried pasta was a good source of calories and nutrients that could be transported over long distances without spoilage. Pasta could be cooked with some kind of fat and salt and whatever vegetables, meat or fish could be found for a satisfying meal. (Think you'd get sick of pasta? It holds up surprisingly well: I ate it most nights on a two-week camping trip in the Rockies (paired with dried cheese and tomato sauce), and I still remember how delicious and satisfying it was after a long day of physical exertion.)

4. Pasta's healthfulness has been in question for most of its history. About 400 years ago, Dr. Giovanni da Vigo Florentine called out pasta as a health threat. The monk Girolamo Savonarola thought consuming pasta and other "luxurious" foods would come between people and their spiritual purity. He shouted from his pulpit: "It's not enough for you to eat your pasta fried. No! You think you have to add garlic to it, and when you eat ravioli, it's not enough to boil it in a pot and eat it in its juice, you have to fry it in another pan and cover it with cheese!" I'm not sure of the good doctor's end, but it's worth nothing that Savonarola was burned at the stake.

5. Some even thought pasta could cause mental illness. Everyone from German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer to the Italian Fascist party thought pasta made people too relaxed and lazy — Mussolini even considered banning it at one point. Della Croce writes, "In the 1930s, Filippo Tommaso Emilio Marinetti, the Italian futurist poet and social reformer, embarked on a well-publicized crusade to change the Italian diet, specifically the centuries-old "addiction" to pasta. "It is necessary, once and for all, to annihilate pasta. . . . *Pastasciutta*, however grateful to the palate, is an obsolete food; it is heavy, brutalizing, and gross; its nutritive qualities are deceptive; it induces sloth, skepticism, and pessimism.' In a country on the threshold of war, Marinetti's charge, 'Spaghetti is no food for fighters!' did not fall on deaf ears."

6. Pasta was a street food and spaghetti was eaten by hand. According to della Croce's book, in Naples "A street culture developed around the cooking, selling and eating of dried pasta. Charcoal fires surrounded by makeshift wooden stalls were to be seen everywhere, offering a pot of boiling, salted water full of macaroni. A mound of grated cheese waited to be piled on top of it, and the pasta was eaten just that way, with fingers."

7. Pasta was kneaded by foot in Italy. In people's homes, most made pasta by mixing and kneading it by hand. But pasta was also made in factories dating back to at least the 1700s and while they were turning out quantities of pasta, they didn't have much in the way of machines to do it. So, workers would mix and knead the pasta with their feet while sitting on benches, and then it was hung out to dry on long racks. Writes della Croce: "As late as the 19th Century, commercial pasta operations were outfitted with huge troughs filled with dough, which was kneaded by barefoot workers trodding to the rhythm of mandolin music. The king of Naples, Ferdinand II (1830-1859), tried to modernize by hiring a famous engineer to design a new, more hygienic system. (The result was a mechanical man with bronze feet.)"

8. The first pasta factory in the U.S. was in Brooklyn. In this case, it was horses that did the work; they were harnessed to a giant kneading device. Zerega Pasta was founded in 1848, and is still sold today, though the headquarters for the company moved to New Jersey in 1952.

9. The 'Yankee Doodle' song was written by the English to make fun of Americans, but it backfired. Writes Kummer in The Atlantic: "In the mid-eighteenth century *macaroni* referred to an overblown hairstyle as well as to the dandy wearing it, which may be why Yankee Doodle stuck a feather in his cap and called the effect macaroni. *Doodle* comes from a German word meaning "simpleton" — the same definition that *noodle* had at the time (honest, starchy foods like dumplings have long had bad reputations). The song "Yankee Doodle" was used by the British to ridicule the American colonists, who adopted it in self-defense."

10. In early dishes, pasta was often a sweet dish, not a savory one. "According to Al Idrisi, the Arab geographer commissioned by King Roger II of Sicily in the early 12th Century to write a book about his explorations of the island, Sicilians made a type of pasta called *itriyah* (the Persian word for "string"). It was fashioned around a knitting needle to make it hollow. It evolved into *tria* and then *trii* , a kind of spaghetti still used in Sicily and some other parts of southern Italy. The antique *tria* (meaning "little strings") were served with sweet sauces often based on honey and cinnamon, ingredients that remain prominent in Sicilian cooking," writes della Croce.

Copyright © 2017 NARRATIVE CONTENT GROUP. All rights reserved.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

mother nature network

14 famous people who mysteriously disappeared

Though many of them are presumed dead, exactly what happened to these high-profile personalities still remains unknown.

Have you seen these people? (Probably not.)

The Lost Roanoke Colony. The Dyatlov Pass Incident. The death of Natalie Wood. The Black Dahlia. The Bermuda Triangle. Bigfoot. Did Tony Soprano die at the end of "The Sopranos"?

We love a good unsolved mystery, and unexplained disappearances that have managed to baffle historians have also intrigued the general public. Unlike the FBI's decades-old search for the remains of a certain convict/labor organizer from Detroit, we've successfully managed to track down 14 missing people of note, including six particularly intriguing head-scratchers followed by a few more names that you may recognize.

In a majority of these cases, the unaccounted-for person was legally declared dead at some point, although their body has never been recovered and their whereabouts are still unknown. Some of these vanishings have been subject to massive search parties, wild speculation, media sensationalism, false accusations, dead ends, wrong turns and the occasional TV miniseries. Some are rather tragic. And in one famous instance, the identity of the AWOL individual was unknown even before he vanished into thin air (by jumping from a plane no less).

So cue up the appropriate music and join us as we delve into the realm of the mostly unknown.

Who: D.B. Cooper

Missing since: 1971

Where: Southwestern Washington state

D.B. who? Exactly.

Although the saga of a brazen air pirate known to the media as D.B. Cooper (he purchased his ticket under the alias of "Dan Cooper") may not be familiar to most young'ns, the aviation industry, the residents of Ariel, Washington and — last but not least — the FBI, will never forget Thanksgiving Eve 1971 when a nattily attired gentleman skyjacked Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 305 bound for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Shortly after the 30-minute flight departed from Portland, Oregon, Cooper

disclosed to a flight attendant that he was in possession of explosives and demanded $200,000, four parachutes and a refueling truck upon landing at Sea-Tac.

Once the plane landed at Sea-Tac after circling for two hours while authorities made preparations, the ransom payout and parachutes were handed over and Cooper released Flight 305's passengers. The refueling process began, at which point Cooper revealed to the plane's pilot and a handful of other crew members his desired destination: Mexico City. About 30 minutes after the flight departed at 7:40 p.m., Cooper, wearing a parachute and in possession of the ransom money, leapt from the plane's aft airstair at 10,000 feet and into the night over southwestern Washington, near Mount St. Helens.

To this day, the identity of D.B. Cooper remains a mystery, and it's unclear if he even survived the jump. Still, in an ongoing effort to retire the nation's only unsolved skyjacking, the FBI has processed thousands of possible suspects, including copycat hijacker Richard McCoy Jr., Seattle-based flight attendant Kenneth Christiansen and a deceased engineering surveyor from Oregon named Lynn Doyle Cooper.

Recently, a group of citizen investigators analyzed the $3 clip-on necktie from JC Penney that Cooper left behind on airplane seat 18E. They claim to have found thousands of microscopic particles, including cerium, strontium sulfide and pure titanium, which indicate he was likely an employee of an aerospace engineering firm. “These are what they call rare earth elements. They’re used in very narrow fields, for very specific things,” Tom Kaye, lead researcher for the group Citizen Sleuths, told a Washington news station. "Of all the possible things for him to leave on the plane, the tie was incredibly fortunate for this investigation" because neckties are washed so infrequently, the group wrote on their website.

Numerous books, films, songs and TV show plotlines have been inspired by the legend of D.B. Cooper. Heck, he's been name-checked on everything from "30 Rock" to "Breaking Bad." And as you may have guessed, David Lynch named cherry pie-loving, black coffee-swilling FBI agent Dale Bartholomew Cooper from "Twin Peaks" after him. In August 2013, the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma opened an exhibit dedicated to the 1971 skyjacking. It's unclear if the man of the hour attended.

In July 2016, the History Channel aired a two-part special about the case, with retired investigators poring over evidence and pointing the finger at Robert Rackstraw, a 72-year-old man who lives on a boat in the San Diego Bay. Rackstraw has said he's considering filing a civil suit against History Channel over the accusation. In that same month, the FBI declared it would no longer actively investigate the Cooper case and would direct resources to other investigations.

Who: Amelia Earhart

Missing since: 1937

Where: The Pacific Ocean

Pioneering aviatrix, author, teacher, magazine editor, celebrity fashion designer, cigarette spokesperson. In her short 39 years on this planet, Amelia Earhart managed to amass an impressive CV, but it was her mysterious disappearance while attempting a round-the-world flight that continues to intrigue to this day.

Although there are numerous theories, no one can be certain what really happened when Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan vanished over the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937, while en route to Howland Island in a Lockheed Electra 10E, a disappearance that resulted in the most intensive — and expensive — search effort in American history up to that time. It's commonly believed that the Electra ran out of

fuel and Earhart, who was declared dead in absentia in 1939, ditched the plane into the Pacific near Howland Island – the "crash and sink theory" — although there's been no shortage of wild myths and legends surrounding Earhart's disappearance. In 2012, researchers embarked on a $2.2 million expedition to prove that Earhart crashed her plane on the tiny island of Nikumaoro.

Our favorite Earhart disappearance legend, other than the one where she's employed to spy on the Japanese by F.D.R., has to be the one involving the iconic pilot pulling an Abbie Hoffman — a ludicrous scenario in which Earhart secretly *completed* the round-the-world flight but, tired of all the fame and fortune, decided to move to Monroe Township, New Jersey, and change her name to Irene Craigmile Bolam. Author Joe Klaas ran with this theory in his 1970 book, "Amelia Earhart Lives," and, as a result, the *real* Irene Craigmile Bolam was none too pleased. Bolam, a banker and amateur pilot, filed a $1.5 lawsuit and publisher McGraw-Hill quickly pulled Klaas' book after it was published.

Who: Harold Holt

Missing since: 1967

Where: Point Nepean, Victoria, Australia

It's not every day that a prime minister vanishes into the sea. However, just that happened on Dec. 17, 1967, when the 17th prime minister of Australia, Harold Holt, decided to go for a swim at Cheviot Beach near Portsea, Victoria. Following two days of exhaustive search efforts, the authorities declared that 59-year-old Holt, a skilled swimmer and longtime member of Parliament who had served as prime minister for less than two years, was presumed dead. His body was never recovered and it wasn't until 2005 that a coroner ruled the cause of death to be accidental drowning — he was either swept out to sea or eaten by shark — in a risky location known for strong rip currents. At the time of his disappearance, Holt was taking pain meds for a shoulder injury.

Not long after Holt went missing, the rumor mill started working overtime and speculation as to what exactly happened that fateful morning at Cheviot Beach continues to this day. Among the more wild myths, many fueled by the fact that Holt's disappearance was not followed by a formal inquiry and that his body was not found: he was abducted by a UFO; he faked his own death so that he could decamp with his mistress, Marjorie Gillespie; and, most famously, he deliberately swam out to sea where he was plucked from the water by a waiting Chinese submarine and whisked off to China. This ridiculous theory, in which Holt was revealed to be a communist and longtime secret agent for the People's Republic of China, surfaced in British journalist Anthony Grey's controversial 1983 book, "The Prime Minister Was a Spy." To this, Holt's wife Zara responded: "Harry? Chinese submarine? He didn't even like Chinese cooking."

Suicide is another theory tied to Holt's disappearance and was suggested in the 2007 documentary "Who Killed Harold Holt?" Several sources close to the late prime minister have adamantly denied that he suffered from bouts of depression or a mental illness.

Whatever the case, Holt will forever be remembered by a wickedly ironic recreation complex in the suburbs of Melbourne, the Harold Holt Swim Centre, and by the slang expression "do a Harry Holt." Translation: to bolt — to disappear abruptly.

Who: Jimmy Hoffa

Missing since: 1975

Where: Bloomfield Township, Michigan

By now, it's been well established that Teamsters kingpin Jimmy Hoffa was offed by the mob after vanishing from the parking lot of a restaurant in suburban Detroit on July 30, 1975. But for decades, even after the super-corrupt union leader was declared dead in absentia a full eight years later, the question remains: what in the hell did they do with his body?

Hoffa's disappearance has yielded a delightfully sordid assortment of lore, lies and potential leads. Some have been pursed by the FBI, some have not, while most pertain to the whereabouts of his remains. Just a taste: entombed under Section 107 at the now-demolished Giants Stadium in New Jersey; hidden in the concrete foundation of Detroit's Renaissance Center; stashed under a horse barn; interred beneath the driveway of a suburban home; tossed into a swamp in Florida; buried under a backyard swimming pool in Bloomfield Hills. Other scenarios have seen Hoffa's body sent through a meat grinder, weighted down in a river, disintegrated at a fat-rendering plant, crushed in a car compactor, buried in a gravel pit, and, last but not least, stuffed into an oil drum and deposited at a toxic waste dump in New Jersey.

The latest entrant in the always-riveting game of Where in the World Is Jimmy Hoffa's Body? According to one source, he's interred in a shallow grave on a vacant lot in Oakland County, Michigan, about 20 miles north of the restaurant where he was last seen alive. Apparently, this location was intended as a temporary dumping ground before Hoffa's body was transferred to a more relocation. That plan, however, fell through.

This revelation comes from Tony Zerilli, a reputed Detroit mob boss who was incarcerated at the time of Hoffa's disappearance. Zerilli told New York's NBC 4 News during a January 2013 interview: "I'm as certain as I could possibly be. If I had money, I'd like to bet a big sum of money that he's buried (there)." He adds: "I'd like to just prove to everybody that I'm not crazy." And on the topic of money and crazy, Zerilli is promoting his new, self-published book titled "Hoffa Found." As of publication, Hoffa's remains remain at large.

Who: Henry Hudson

Missing since: 1611

Where: James Bay, Canada

Henry Hudson (a.k.a. the famed British navigator who has a river, bay, strait, town, bridge, etc. named after him) must have been a rather pushy fellow to work for. His own crew — homesick, starving, half-frozen and unwilling to keep exploring after becoming trapped in ice for several months — set a determined Hudson, his teenage son and seven infirm and/or loyal-to-Hudson sailors adrift on a small, open boat in the middle of present-day Hudson Bay. Hudson and the other cast-offs were never seen or heard from again. (So much for talking things out with the HR department, eh?)

Not a whole lot of particulars are known about the mutiny that ended Hudson's fourth expedition as only a handful of the Discovery's crew survived the voyage back to England to stand trial. Arrested and charged with the murder of their captain, the mutinous crewmembers ended up escaping any kind of punishment and, to this day, it's generally believed that a marooned Hudson met his maker while aboard the tiny lifeboat. This scenario has been immortalized in a famous John Collier painting (pictured). (A fur-clad, ZZ Top-ish Hudson doesn't appear too thrilled in it.)

In his book, "Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson," esteemed history professor Peter Mancall highlights evidence that suggests Hudson could have been violently murdered by his crew and *not* forced into a small boat with a few others and left

to die. The possibility that Hudson managed to survive the mutiny, changed his hair color and relocated to Rio de Janeiro where he lived out the rest of his life as a popular yet enigmatic lounge singer named "Bob Simpson" has been ruled out. And as for Hudson's doomed crew, you never know, they could have very well reemerged nearly 200 years later alongside a few other former disgruntled Hudson sailors — the crew of the Half Moon — as hirsute bowling enthusiasts living in New York's Catskill Mountains.

Who: Azaria Chamberlain

Missing since: 1980

Where: Northern Territory, Australia

"G'day Mate."

"Let's throw another a shrimp on the barbie."

"That's not a knife. *This* is a knife."

"A dingo ate my baby!"

This is just a small sampling of (mostly unfortunate) phrases associated with the great country of Australia that have been embedded into the pop culture lexicon. And as for that last one, it really did happen — and Paul Hogan had nothing to do with it.

The 1980 disappearance of Azaria Chamberlain remains one of the most infamous, if not *the* most infamous, murder cases in Aussie history. And it wasn't until 2012 — 32 years, a super-sensational trial, several dramatic coronial inquests, demoralizing public scrutiny and a "Seinfeld" punchline later — that Azaria's beleaguered parents found closure when a coroner ruled that their 9-week-old daughter had indeed been snatched from an outback campsite near Uluru by a marauding wild dog.

Following Azaria's disappearance, her mother, Lindy Chamberlain, was tried and convicted for the murder of her infant daughter and sentenced to life in prison. She served three years before being released after a piece of Azaria's clothing was found, totally by chance, in a dingo's lair near the campsite. Two years later, the convictions against Lindy and her husband Michael were overturned and all charges were dropped. However, it wasn't until a fourth inquest in 2012 that an amended death certificate — a death certificate that legally backed the Chamberlains' initial claim that their daughter was taken from her tent by a dingo during the night and carried off into the wilderness and killed — for Azaria was finally issued.

And as for that famous phrase, it's actually a misquote from the 1988 Meryl Streep film, "A Cry in the Dark" in which Streep, playing Lindy Chamberlain, cries: "*The* dingo *took* my baby!"

Other notable people who disappeared:

Dorothy Arnold: Manhattan socialite and heiress. Disappeared December 1910 in New York City at the age of 25.

Jean Spangler: Actress and dancer. Disappeared October 1949, in Los Angeles at the age of 26.

Frank Morris (pictured)**:** Criminal**.** Disappeared June 1962, from Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary along with John and Clarence Anglin at the age of 36.

Jim Thompson: American businessman. Disappeared March 1967 from the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, at the age of 61.

Sean Flynn: Freelance photojournalist and son of actor Errol Flynn. Disappeared April 1970 in Cambodia at the age of 28.

Oscar Zeta Acosta: Attorney, activist and traveling companion of Hunter S. Thompson. Disappeared 1974 in Mexico at the age of 39.

Richey Edwards: Guitarist, Manic Street Preachers. Disappeared February 1995 in London at the age of 27.

Bison Dele: Retired professional basketball player for the Detroit Pistons. Disappeared July 2002 in Tahiti at the age of 32.

Editor's note: This story was updated with new information since its original publication date in February 2013.

Photo credits

- "The Last Days of Henry Hudson": Wikimedia Commons
- Amelia Earhart: Wikimedia Commons
- Harold Holt: Department of Defense
- Jimmy Hoffa: AFP/Getty Images
- D.B Cooper: Wikimedia Commons
- Azaria Chamberlain: Getty Images
- Frank Morris: Wikimedia Commons

Profile Latest Stories

Matt Hickman (**@mattyhick**) writes about design, architecture and the intersection between the natural world and the built environment.

---

56 Comments **MNN** Login

Recommend 45 Share Sort by Best

Join the discussion…

Scott Roberts • 2 years ago
Not a word about Judge Crater(NYC, IIRC)?
7 • Reply • Share ›

itsjustme ➚ Scott Roberts • 6 months ago
Not a word about Chandra Levy, either. I believe she was never found.
• Reply • Share ›

Peggy ➚ itsjustme • 6 months ago
CNN.com - Chandra Levy's remains found in D.C. park - May ...

www.cnn.com/2002/US/05/22/levy...

The skeletal remains of missing former Washington intern Chandra Levy were found in a park in northwest Washington on Wednesday, almost 13 months after she ...
2 • Reply • Share ›

Davin MacGlashan • 2 years ago
The dingo ate Jimmy Hoffa.
6 • Reply • Share ›

yadin ↗ Davin MacGlashan • a year ago
You are good.
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jerry Ricks • 5 months ago
First paragraph on Henry Hudson: It's "strait" not "straight"! If you're going to be a writer, learn the language!
3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

MikeofAges • a year ago
Why did they leave out Michael Rockefeller? There's something so satisfying about a missing Rockefeller. LOL
3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Danmo43 ↗ MikeofAges • a year ago
Eaten by cannibals to top it off. One could only hope the same end for the rest of them.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

MikeofAges ↗ Danmo43 • a year ago
He was of sorts a dropout from civilization. He personally did not deserve a bad end. Not in my estimation.

He left a swamped boat about three miles offshore. Three miles might not be a long swim for a practiced distance swimmer, but a lot can happen in open salt water. Was he known as distance swimmer? I don't know. But it was mistake to leave the boat. His companion, a Dutch anthropologist, was rescued the following day.

Native reports that he was killed and perhaps eaten might or might not be be accurate. I don't think that primitive people are inherently more capable or less capable of inventing tall tales to order than we are. Rumors of a white man living with some native tribe also have been reported. The disappearance has to be rated a mystery worthy of listing. It will be solved only if remains which can be identified as his ever are recovered.
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Danmo43 ↗ MikeofAges • a year ago
True. I read about him after you mentioned him. I have nothing against him per se, but David and Jay? Have at them.
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Amy Susan Fisher • 6 months ago
Not one mention of bandleader Glenn Miller, who disappeared on a flight during WWII and was never heard from again.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

MNNStaff Mod ↗ Amy Susan Fisher • 6 months ago
That's a really good one! Colorado Public Radio did an interesting piece last year on one theory but its not been 100% proved
http://www.cpr.org/news/story/...
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mark J • 2 years ago
What about Bruno Manser. His brother is a friend of mine.

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/bluemoo...
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jamie Schecter • a day ago
the waitress this morning at my local diner. showed up, took the order and then *poof*,

never did get my eggs and coffee.
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

SouthernHope5 • 6 months ago
I wouldn't be surprised if DB Cooper found a way to get himself off the list...so he can finally come out of hiding!
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

John Dunkelburg ↗ SouthernHope5 • a day ago
I think DB Cooper earned himself a Darwin Award with his stunt. Parachuting into a cold Pacific Northwest storm at night wearing only a business suit and a parachute? Not the smartest way to try and get away; I think either his bones are on the bottom of a lake in the

Cascades, or his body washed out to sea via the Columbia River. Either way, neither his body nor the remaining money he jumped out of the 727 with will ever be found except by some huge coincidence.

• Reply • Share ›

VodkaHellstorm • a year ago

They found Azaria Chamberlain's body years ago. Two men camping in the area shot a dingo and discovered the body of the baby, so they panicked and buried it (I think in one of their backyards) and came forward about 25 years later.

Edit: Wellp, I was wrong, they didn't find the body but there were strong, though possibly still unsubstantiated claims that a man had shot a dingo with the baby in it's mouth and absconded with the body. I suppose that's what happens when you restate "facts" from a documentary you saw when you were 10 xD

1 • Reply • Share ›

yadin • a year ago

Amelia, the aviatrix who was never found was mentioned here. How about the eldest Kennedy brother Patrick who flew his last mission in Europe during WWII and disappeared without a trace. Pres, Kennedy mentioned him at the time he was campaigning for the presidency.

1 • Reply • Share ›

SnoGo ➚ yadin • 6 months ago

The Kennedy went by Joe and his disappearance has pretty much been explored and there's been a PBS piece on it.

1 • Reply • Share ›

rob morriso ➚ yadin • 4 months ago

it was Joseph Jr. his bomber blew up and he was in little pieces. no mystery there.

• Reply • Share ›

Sevinthseal ➚ yadin • 4 months ago

Kennedy isn't missing; he was vaporized. At least, that's the consensus. I remember seeing an investigative piece on that. Apparently, they were in the practice of dropping unused ordinance over the Channel after returning from bombing runs, and they believe his aircraft was directly beneath one of the aircraft dropping unused bombs and his plane exploded in mid-air.

• Reply • Share ›

rob morriso ➚ Sevinthseal • 4 months ago

Above is the theory for Glen Miller's disappearance. Joe Kennedy was testing out a remote controlled bomber packed with tons of high explosives on board.
He was to parachute out and the bomber was to be steered into a German naval base and blow up. Like a smart bomb.. It went off prematurely and Joe Jr was killed.

1 • Reply • Share ›

Claudette UK • 2 years ago

What about the Lindberg baby?

1 • Reply • Share ›

yadin ➚ Claudette UK • a year ago

I was about to ask this too.

1 • Reply • Share ›

Mars Greenwood ➚ yadin • 2 months ago

There are a few links on google about this and I believe a video...maybe it was on "n-solved mysteries" but it got me thinking and it seem entirely possible. It's just too perfect of a story.

• Reply • Share ›

Mongoose218 ➚ Claudette UK • 2 years ago

His body was found....

1 • Reply • Share ›

yadin ➚ Mongoose218 • a year ago

The baby was found?

• Reply • Share ›

Me2 ➚ Claudette UK • a year ago

The Lindbergh baby was found murdered about two months after his kidnapping. They convicted and executed a man by the name of Bruno Hauptmann several years later. There has always been some controversy surrounding his guilt. Fascinating story.

Reply • Share ›

Mars Greenwood ➚ Me2 • 2 months ago

Another theory was that Mr. Lindbergh killed his son. The child had some defects and wasn't perfect enough. Circumstances and evidence show that it is most unlikely that baby Lindbergh was kidnapped by one man, Hauptmann, as the prosecution claimed. But more importantly, evidence of the extreme nature of the birth defects of Charles' son provide the motive for the pro-Hitler Nazi sympathizer to want his deformed son 'gone.' Lindbergh was a perfectionist and over-achiever, traits congruent with his pro-Nazi 'superman' beliefs, particularly those in eugenics and Teutonic racism. Having a baby, a son, with birth defects was a nightmare that Lindy couldn't abide.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=...

Reply • Share ›

Me2 ➚ Mars Greenwood • 2 months ago

Lindbergh was a frightening man. It's sad to think his mania could have led him to murder his son.

1 Reply • Share ›

Silvia • 2 years ago

What about the physicist Ettore Majorana?

1 Reply • Share ›

BabalooMandel • 3 months ago

D.B. Cooper was also a character on Prison Break, using the alias Charles Westmoreland.

Reply • Share ›

Anonymous • 4 months ago

I am D.B Cooper. I will be found when I let you. If you want me, come and catch me at 22 primula street Belfast South-Africa

Reply • Share ›

Britt Mcdaniel • 4 months ago

By the way, the death of Natalie Woods I really believe is her husband. Pretty sure his name is Robert Conrad? (I'm not 100 percent on the name?) That guy is guilty! He was on the show Hart to Hart a long time back. He also played NCIS's Anthony DiNozo's (not sure if the last name is spelled right?) dad every so often.

Reply • Share ›

insanityreigns ➚ Britt Mcdaniel • 2 hours ago

His name is Robert Wagner

Reply • Share ›

David Bofinger • 5 months ago

Harold Holt had just found out he was going to be dumped by his party as prime minister. So he went for a swim to make himself feel better. Feeling down, maybe a bit suicidal, not thinking about his own safety ...

Reply • Share ›

Virginia Ann Ullrich-Serna • 5 months ago

not a word about the Rockefeller son that disappeared of the coast of New Zealand,i think.

Reply • Share ›

Huey Johnston • 6 months ago

I remember three young women they never found. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/...

Reply • Share ›

Melba • 6 months ago

"Harry Holt" is an example of alliteration, not rhyming.

Reply • Share ›

itsjustme • 6 months ago

We have had many very local disappearances --- all of them happened over the last 5 decades or so.

Not famous...but vanished nonetheless; all the crimes are unsolved.

*2 teen girls who vanished in 1974 on their way to a local mall

*A 30ish married woman who was at odds with her husband. They think he might have done it but who knows? Nothing has turned up

How is it that people can just vanish and nobody sees or hears anything untoward???

My area still has this one, hands down, for vanishing and infamous:

The most infamous person who pulled a vanishing act (and was later on turned in by his second wife, who he met at church) was a man who murdered his family, left the lights of their large home ablaze -- yep, he turned all of them on -- and then took off.

Left a note saying he thought his family took the wrong turn in life and were no longer right with God.

The cops came when a neighbor noticed the lights were burning out one by one....

The crime -- and his disappearance --- went unsolved unitl, like I said, his second wife turned him in --- his face and the crime he committed was shown on "America's Most Wanted."

Reply • Share ›

SnoGo • 6 months ago

Michael Rockefeller? There are lots more than these missings in this article, but these are interesting.

Reply • Share ›

Josh Edward Beatty • 6 months ago

No Agatha Christie?

Reply • Share ›

Phillipe Knippel • 6 months ago

Weird.....

Reply • Share ›

Will • a year ago

Arthur McArthur?

Reply • Share ›

mike • a year ago

After 28 years of marriage my wife left me. No one knows where she went. But I do know I really enjoy my new concrete patio shortly after she left.

Reply • Share ›

Marleen Rathfon-Hubert ➚ mike • 6 months ago

Mike, have you a great sense of humour, or are you a retired Catholic?

Reply • Share ›

yadin ➚ mike • a year ago

Mister, this article is about people who mysteriously disappeared and were never found.

Reply • Share ›

MikeofAges ➚ yadin • a year ago

Hey Jack. It's an online forum. Don't be so picky.

Reply • Share ›

Daithi • 2 years ago

Lord Lucan anyone?

Reply • Share ›

Right Wing Conspirator • 2 years ago

Elizabeth Berkley?

Reply • Share ›

Load more comments

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add Privacy

Subscribe to our newsletter

Email address Go

Copyright © 2017 NARRATIVE CONTENT GROUP. All rights reserved.

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

22 pounds of illegal animal parts found in luggage at DFW Airport

khou.com

Jordan Armstrong, WFAA4:23 PM. CST February 10, 2017

Animal meat seized at DFW Aiport on Feb. 4.

DFW AIRPORT -- Specialists with U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 22 pounds of illegal animal meat at DFW Airport earlier this month.

In a press release sent Friday, officials said raw chicken, pig, and cow meat, brains, hearts, heads, tongues, feet, and other body parts were found in a woman's luggage as she returned to the U.S. from Vietnam on Feb. 4.

“Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists work diligently to prevent the introduction of diseases into the U.S.” Dallas CBP Port Director Cleatus Hunt Jr. said.

“These kinds of meat products are potential carriers for harmful diseases that could result in devastating effects on our agriculture industry.”

The meat was found when the passenger provided a "negative customs declaration," but was referred for a baggage exam. The meat in her bag was described as raw, cured or dried.

The products were "destroyed by steam sterilization," officials said.

CBP seizes about 4,638 prohibited animal or plant products on a daily basis, it said. Restrictions are placed on meat products because officials say they could carry diseases.

(© 2017 WFAA)

FCC Online Public Inspection File • EEO Public File Report

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

54,000 evacuated on Christmas after Germany finds WWII bomb

thelocal.de

DPA/The Local
25 December 2016
15:17 CET+01:00

An unwelcome Christmas surprise in southern Germany forced the evacuation of 54,000 people from their homes Sunday after the discovery of a bomb dating from World War II, local authorities said.

It was a British bomb that was found in the city of Augsburg and led to the biggest mobilisation in Germany -- around 900 police officers -- since the war itself.

The 1.8-tonne explosive had been found on Tuesday during work at a construction site in the centre of the Bavarian city, but authorities planned to defuse the bomb around mid-day Sunday.

"Today I ask everyone concerned to leave the area, if possible by themselves," said Augsburg mayor Kurt Gribi in a video message posted on the city's Twitter account.

Gribi also called for "each person to verify that their relatives, parents and friends have found places to stay outside the (security) zone... Look out for one another."

The defusing could take up to five hours, according to the authorities, who estimate that the evacuees will not be able to return home before the evening.

Admittedly this was an unusual Christmas day in Augsburg, a city spokesman told TV channel n24, adding that hopefully people would voluntarily leave their homes given the expected "force of the explosion" during the defusing of the bomb.

More than 70 years after the end of the war, unexploded bombs are still found buried on German territory, vestiges of the intense bombing campaigns by the Allied forces against Nazi Germany.

The Local Europe AB
Östgötagatan 12
116 25 Stockholm
Sweden

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Retired historian's collection of 700 toy cars sells for £100,000

dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

- **Anders Clausager, 67, has collected toy cars for 60 years, buying brands including Corgi, Matchbox and Lego**
- **Decided to sell them because he is moving house and had so many that auctioneer put on individual auction**
- **Estimate was £40,000-£60,000 but they nearly doubled it, with an individual lot fetching more than £2,000**

By James Dunn For Mailonline

A retired motoring historian's remarkable collection of 700 collecible toy cars has sold for almost £100,000.

Anders Clausager, 67, has amassed so many toy cars over the past 60 years that an auctioneer held an individual auction to offload them and made double the estimate.

One collector paid £2,100 for a pack of 12 Lego miniatures, a prestigious French Dinky Toys set went for £1,450 and a Corgi Toys set went for £850.

A retired motoring historian's remarkable collection of 700 collecible toy cars has sold for almost £100,000, with one pack of 12 Lego miniatures (pictured) fetching £2,100 alone

Anders Clausager, 67, has amassed so many toy cars over the past 60 years that an auctioneer held an individual auction to offload them and made double the estimate. Pictured is a Corgi Toys GS38 Rallye Monte Carlo

An early LEGO plastic Volkswagen Beetle was among the toys that he has collected for the last 60 years and there are now so many that they cannot all be displayed at his home

Mr Clausager, who lives in Birmingham, went to great lengths to get hold of iconic toy cars and once came home from Naples with a suitcase full after buying 'as many as he could afford' on holiday. Pictured is a Citroen DS 19 model

He said: 'There's been a bit of tugging at the heartstrings. I went to the auctioneers' to look at the collection and seeing them all on display created a feeling of sadness. But now it feels

© Astons/BNPS

right to move them on so they can give pleasure to someone else.'

When he was younger, Mr Clausager, who lives in Birmingham, went to great lengths to get hold of iconic toy cars and once came home from Naples with a suitcase full after buying 'as many as he could afford' on holiday.

- Camera queen Kate snaps up an honour: Duchess is commended... How Quality Street brought treats to the poor, how the Wall... Butter-ringers: Couple enjoy a beautiful proposal by a...

© Astons/BNPS

Over the years, he amassed too many toy cars to put on display in his home, so the majority of his prized possessions were hidden away in cupboards.

He said: 'I've collected toy cars since my childhood, for 60 years. My first toy cars were when I was six. I can remember this very well.

© Astons/BNPS

Over the years, he amassed too many toy cars to put on display in his home, so the majority of his prized possessions were hidden away in cupboards. Pictured is a French Dinky Toy, 588 GAK Berliet Camion Brasseur 'Kronenbourg'

The retired motoring historian's plastic and tin-plate models included English and French Dinky, Corgi and Matchbox examples as well as Danish makers such as Tekno, Lego and Vilmer. Pictured are two Tekno Volkswagen Bukos

Anders admits he feels 'sadness' at parting with his enormous collection, but he feels it was the right time to move them on to a collector who will appreciate them. Pictured is a Tekno Koppartrans tanker

'I've always been interested in cars - I worked as a motoring historian for many years. They go hand in hand, real cars and toy cars.

'In the 60s and 70s I would pick up toy cars when travelling abroad. In the early 70s I was on holiday in Naples. I went to Capri and found a toy shop.

© Astons/BNPS

'I walked in and it had the most amazing selection of 1950s Dinky toys and Corgi toys. I bought as many as I could possibly afford, which was sadly only 10.

'It's not so much that I have a favourite model, more I have favourite brands. I have very strong feelings for the Dinky toy models of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

© Astons/BNPS

'The toy cars have been stored in various places in the house. I had a few on display but there were way too many to display them all, so they were mostly stored away in cupboards.

'I'm getting on a bit in age and we have downsized, moving from a large house into a smaller house. It seems like a good time to take stock and get rid of things.'

Chris Aston, director of Dudley-based Astons Auctioneers which sold the toy cars, said it was the largest and most impressive single-owner collection they have ever sold. Pictured is a Spot On Minatures Presentation Set

© Astons/BNPS

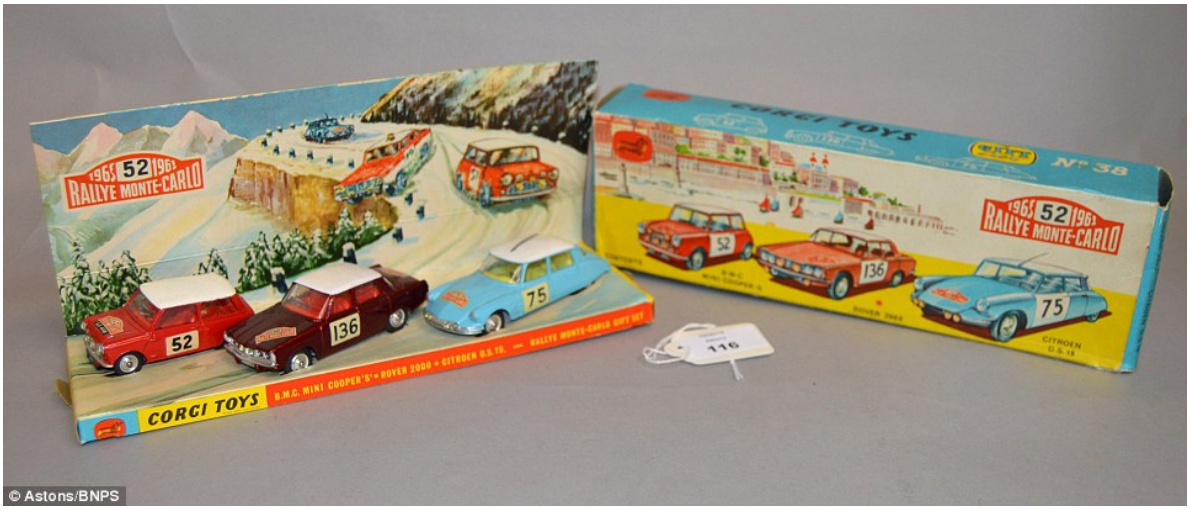
Mr Clausager said his partner, David, is quite pleased that they are getting rid of the collection, which takes up quite a lot of space in the house

The retired motoring historian's plastic and tin-plate models included English and French Dinky, Corgi and Matchbox examples as well as Danish makers such as Tekno, Lego and Vilmer.

Mr Clausager admits he feels 'sadness' at parting with his enormous collection, but he feels it was the right time to move them on to a collector who will appreciate them.

He said: 'My partner David has been very sympathetic and patient with me, but I think he's quite pleased we're not having them anymore as it saves a bit of space!'

Chris Aston, director of Dudley-based Astons Auctioneers which sold the toy cars, said: 'It is the largest and most impressive single-owner collection we have had the pleasure of offering for sale in 11 years of trading as specialist toy auctioneers.



'Anders is very happy with the result. When I first went to his house to look at his collection I estimated £40,000 to £60,000 and he said he would be really happy with that so this is a good little pension fund.'

MOST READ NEWS

Add your comment

The comments below have not been moderated.

Nick P, Springfield USA, about 3 hours ago

I've got several Tekno tankers at home but this is only the second time I have ever seen a boxed tekno. The important thing is to buy what you like. If it increases on value then that's a bonus!

mazdamadman, Birmigham, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

The Monte Carlo rally set is fabulous!

boffy, London, United Kingdom, about 9 hours ago

Those Teckno VW vans are beautiful - so 1960s and Continental. Wow.

Paul E, Norfolk, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Most of those shown are diecasr NOT tin plate

Just saying..., E Sussex, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

What a great collection.

NewsFlash, Bristol, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

There are a lot of people collecting recent "Limited edition collectables" purely marketed at the gullible would be invester.

Corgi-Toys.Net, Towcester, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

The Corgi set went very cheaply. Expect to see that on Ebay at at least twice the price. Oh, maybe it's there already! I suppose an auction does get rid of everything in one fell swoop but I am not convinced that the seller gets the best prices. It's great for the auction firm, though, with buyers paying about 20% on top and fees from the seller probably produced about £35000 for the day. Most lovely items went to dealers, not good homes, I'm afraid. Oh well, never mind.

Spiny Norman, The Land of Wind and Ghosts, United Kingdom, about 13 hours ago

I used to love playing with my dinky as a little boy.

2 of 3 repliesSee all replies

Bah Humbug, Humbug Scrub S.A., Australia, about 6 hours ago

Still got 20/20 vision have you?

Tommytom222222, Newtownards, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

How did you cope with the oil leaks..;-)

stevesouth121, southampton, about 13 hours ago

from a time before retail scalping or collecting not ever to use it. shame they are no longer toys just commodities.

Richard 10, Leicester, United Kingdom, about 13 hours ago

I have a collection to of James Bond vehicles and others from the 80,s Whether I sell them in the future is another question.

Spiny Norman, The Land of Wind and Ghosts, United Kingdom, about 13 hours ago

Real ones?

Richard 10, Leicester, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

No unfortunately die cast ones in box's !

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'That is a black mark on my name': How giving a lift to a stranger led me to a grisly Quebec murder

| *January 16, 2017* | *Last Updated: Jan 16 1:27 PM ET* nationalpost.com

Postmedia News fileSect leader Raymond Steele leaves a Quebec courthouse in Valleyfield after he was arraigned in the death of Linda Quinn Jan. 23, 1985.

The best tales are the stories within stories.

One starts: “I’m trying to get to Heywood and quite frankly I have no idea where I am.”

The other, more ominously: “You don’t want my love. You don’t love me.”

He was almost in the middle of the road. A tall man on the far edge of middle age, he was leaning on a thick cane and squinting through the freezing rain on the tricky little Côte-St-Luc loop where Fleet Rd. meets Cavendish Blvd. in the Montreal suburb. He had dark skin and was hatless, but had a scarf wrapped loosely around his neck and shoulders. He held one hand up and I ground the truck to a halt. It was late afternoon and there were few other fool drivers in this early January, slushy mess with its hidden slippery patches.

“I’m trying to get to Heywood Rd. and, quite frankly, I have no idea where I am,” he said into my open window. A delicious whiff of smoke blew in.

I twisted my head around. “Damn. I’m new to the area, so — it’s that way, I think?”

“Yeah, it’s over there. I think I have to get to those buildings. But there’s a fence in the way. The guy just left me here.”

You want to get in?

I didn’t ask about the guy. Cabbie? Uber? Bus driver? “Are you trying to get to the hospital that’s around here? I had to go there once and I got so lost.”

“Nope. Kildare and …”

Kildare? I grabbed my phone and thumbed to Google Maps. I was still stopped in the middle of the road, which isn’t the sort of place I generally like to be, so I said, “You want to get in?”

His eyebrows raised, like that wasn’t the response he was expecting. I shoved the evidence of my recent bargain-retailer shopping spree in the back and he folded himself into the passenger seat, shoulders filling most of the space, head nearly touching the roof of the little truck. He gave me an address on Côte-St-Luc Rd.

“That’s in the opposite direction! No way you could have walked all that way in this,” I said, and we were off into the murk of worsening weather.

Almost exactly 32 years ago, on a road not far from where this stranger and I were driving, the sky was clear and there were nine centimetres of snow on the ground in Huntingdon, southeast of Montreal. It was far colder there on Jan. 16, 1985 — minus-21 C — and the drama that was playing was ever so much darker.

Pastor Raymond Steele had determined that his secretary was a witch. Moustachioed, with straight brown hair and thick eyebrows accenting a pale face, he looked her in the eye and said, "You don't want my love. You don't love me."

Linda Quinn's five-hour nightmare started then.

A-4 ✦ The GAZETTE, Montreal, Saturday, January 19, 1985

Sect leader held in slaying of Huntingdon woman

HUNTINGDON (Gazette-CP) - Police are holding the leader of an obscure religious sect on a coroner's warrant in the slaying of a Huntingdon woman whose body was found in a steamer trunk.

Raymond Steele, 33, minister of the Universal Life Church of Enlightened Reason, was arrested late Thursday after heavily armed police stormed a house near Huntingdon, 60 kilometres southwest of Montreal.

They found the body of Linda Quann, 33, stuffed in a trunk in a garage attached to the white clapboard bungalow on the banks of Trout River, 11 kilometres west of Huntingdon.

A Service de Quebec official said the woman had been "beaten, tortured then stabbed several times."

Police believe she was killed Wednesday.

The slaying was discovered by the victim's sister, Susan, 21. She had gone looking for her sister, who was doing part-time secretarial work for Steele.

Neighbors said Susan Quinn fled the house after being held there for the night.

"She knocked on my door at 4 p.m. asking to use the telephone," said neighbor Pat Walsh, a teacher. "She said her sister had been murdered."

Walsh said the woman found her dead sister's coat and engagement ring in the house after being told she had travelled to Ottawa on business.

"During the night she spent in the house she was told her sister had been killed and that her body was in a trunk in the garage," Walsh said.

"It's a good thing she used her head and kept cool. She could have been killed too."

Walsh said Steele's pregnant, live-in companion had left with the couple's six-month-old child a week ago.

Walsh's husband, Stephen Morrisey, said the police tactical squad secured the house after surrounding the building, which was protected by two guard dogs, a pitbull terrier and a German shepherd.

Police said one of the dogs was shot and killed during the siege.

The couple said it took police 90 minutes to respond to repeated calls that a murder had been committed.

"The next time, I'll call the volunteer fire department," said Walsh.

Police said it took them 50 minutes to arrive. They said the house, at 4238 Highway 138, is 11 kilometres from the station, and the officer who took the call had to wait for his partner to back him up.

Steele appeared yesterday before Coroner Gilles Perrin, who ordered him detained as a material witness pending an inquest Wednesday.

Steele and a friend operated an automobile body shop, Les Artisans, from a garage next to his home.

He opened the garage shortly after moving to the Huntingdon area from Pierrefonds, where his church was based.

An official of the Universal Life Church, based in Modesto, Calif., yesterday described Steele as a duly ordained minister.

"We are a non-denominational church and we believe in doing what is right," Rev. Robert Imbeau, vice-president of the church's international wing, said in a telephone interview.

"Our ministers do what they think is right, as long as it doesn't harm themselves or anyone else.

"If everyone did what is right, we wouldn't need police forces, would we?"

Mike Kropveld, a McGill University expert on religious sects, said the Universal Life Church of Enlightened Reason has been active in the Montreal area but he does not believe it has many members.

Allan Lysk, a United Church minister in Huntingdon who met Steele several times, said the sect originated in California where it was "one of a million splinter churches.

"It's one of those churches anyone can be ordained in if they pay," he said. There did not appear to be many members of the church locally, he added.

"It didn't seem to be of a proselytizing nature. He (Steele) wasn't trying to bring in large numbers."

Lysk said he last saw Steele on Saturday when he delivered food and some money to Steele, his wife and young baby.

"He always called God the Father — he was his son," said Lysk. "His theological base was that he was the new order starting again."

Gazette George Cree/Todd Church

Raymond Steele, left, was arrested after police stormed this house and found a battered body in the garage.

Google news archives A Montreal Gazette story from Jan. 19, 1985.

Thirty-three-year-old Steele, ordained by the Montreal-based Universal Life Church of Enlightened Reason sect, set out to ritually rid her of Satan, according to details eventually heard at his trial. Forensics and the testimony of a former friend, who was there throughout Quinn's five-hour ordeal, paint a bloody, horrific picture.

Steele suspended Quinn with chains from a pipe in his basement. He let his dogs bite her 50 times. He stabbed her over and over. For five hours. When she died of blood loss, he poured boiling water over her corpse and packed her into a three-foot-long steamer trunk — she was five-foot-five — in the garage attached to his home.

When her sister came looking for her, he held her captive, rambling, all night, till she was able to escape to call police from a neighbour's home.

My guest had the sort of English Montreal accent one hears from Lachine natives or Wagar High School graduates. Self-assured, comfortable, delivered with the entertaining sort of conviction that listeners will believe every story. Of course.

We want to believe.

He was a filmmaker, he told me, though he started out videotaping brises as family keepsakes — "for Sephardic Jews," he specified twice for some reason — and now he had a meeting with someone to secure funding for something new. "And if that doesn't work out, I have another guy near here who's my No. 2 choice. And if that doesn't work out —" he rattled off the name of a guy who owns a string of successful car dealerships.

A who's-who of Montreal names poured out of him then. People he'd worked with. His mother worked with. They owned clubs or they were musicians, but the only name I recognized for sure was Biddle.

> You want adventure? You're gonna have to stick with me

"You're pretty Montreal deep," I said, so he'd know I was listening.

"I think you've gone too far."

"No, it should be just up there."

"I think you're going the wrong way. Cavendish is back there."

"Yeah, where I picked you up … you want Cavendish?" I eased into the left lane. "You're lucky you found someone who likes to drive. And who likes an adventure."

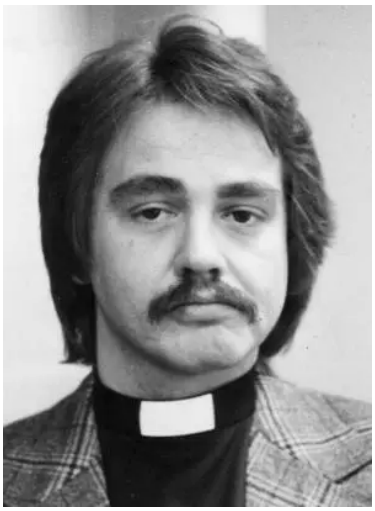
I spun a slippery U-turn as he said in his big voice, "You want adventure? You're gonna have to stick with me. I have adventures for you." Now that he'd tossed his cigarette, I could make out the barest remnants of wine with lunch. "Have you heard of Raymond Steele? Back in 1985 in Huntingdon. How about the Universal Life Church of Enlightened Reason?"

During the trial, it was revealed that Quinn, who was 23 and was engaged to a Huntingdon man, had been eight weeks pregnant. It was also discovered that Steele had called police just before he started exorcising the devil from her. He told the dispatcher that he was a clairvoyant, and that five hours hence the Sûreté du Québec would torture a young woman to death.

The trial took less than two weeks. The evidence was damning, especially in the face of the friend's testimony. Steele fired his lawyers and represented himself. He denied the torture-slaying and tried for a time to pin it on his friend.

When the sentence came down — life in prison — the Montreal Gazette reported that the courtroom cheered: "Bravo! Bravo!"

His phone rang. "Hey. I'm almost there. Yeah. I got turned around, but then I was picked up by this gorgeous lady." I had overshot the building and had to spin another U-turn. The rain was harder, tinnier as the sun went down, taking the temperature with it. Then I pulled into the wrong apartment complex and turned tightly in the courtyard. He was gleeful.



Postmedia News file Raymond Steele in an undated photo.

"Oh man," he half-shouted into the phone. "She's gorgeous and she's a wild one. She's got one of those big cars with four-wheel-drive and she's driving over sidewalks and everything." I rolled my eyes and bumped over the edge of the curb.

My new friend told me he'd been a real-estate agent. He pointed out houses he'd sold along our roundabout route through Côte-St-Luc and N.D.G.

So when he said a girl had been killed in the basement of his house in Huntingdon, I wondered whether he meant it was his home, or a home he'd sold, or just a story to make the hairs on one's forearm lift.

Steele's house was damaged by suspected arson while the trial was going on, and the Gazette reported that it was owned by Steele "and another man." This man, perhaps?

"The Universal Life Church of Enlightened Reason. You have to look up all the words or you won't find it." He was halfway out of my truck, one hand on his cane, the other on my door frame. "Being involved in that is a black mark on my name.

"The only one."

Raymond Steele successfully appealed his conviction, but pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. He was granted day parole in February 2016, and full parole Oct. 26, 2016.

© 2017 National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

A Murderer's Death Dance.

murderbygaslight.com

A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, January 7, 2017

(From *New York Sun* February 10, 1888)

A MURDERER'S DEATH DANCE.
Fiddling and Singing the Night Before His Execution.
Utica, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Clement Arthur D.. was executed in Utica jail at 10.24½ o'clock this morning in the presence of 24 citizens, including all the officials. He was declared dead in 11½ minutes. His neck was broken. Before he left his cell he declared that he had nothing further to say to the public. On his knees, in the presence of the Rev. E. Owen, his spiritual adviser, he declared himself guiltless of premeditated murder. Four drams of croton oil, sufficient to kill four men, were found in his cell within a week. His father declared he would never be executed.
Day clapped his hands after the death warrant was read, and smiled. On walking over the ice in the jail yard he laughed heartily over the falls of the sheriff, Rev. E Owen, a newspaper reporter, and Special Deputy Burke, exclaiming: "That's four of them." He yawned while his legs were being strapped on the scaffold. He shook hands and kissed Deputy Burke, and assisted Deputy Ballow in adjusting the rope about his neck, He smiled as the cap was drawn over his face, and the smile was still there when the body was cut down.
The crime for which Day was hanged was the murder of his paramour, Johanna Rosa Cross. The crime was committed on the banks of the Black River canal the 9th of last June. Day's father, a lock tender, was the only witness of the tragedy. Day was jealous of his mistress and feared she would leave him. She had tried many times to get his permission for her to visit her mother, but he always refused, saying she would never return. The day before the tragedy she received a letter from her mother saying she was dying and asking the daughter to come to her. She wrote a reply to the letter, and she and Day started down the bank of the canal toward Boonville, where they intended to mail it. They had gone but a short distance when Day turned on her and struck her with a butcher knife. [illegible] when Day turned on her and struck her with a butcher knife. They fell, and he continued cutting until eight distinct cuts were made, one of which severed the heart and another the abdomen. The babe in the womb of the murdered woman was also cut out, and [illegible] standing a few feet from the murdered girl stood by. In the interview with him after his arrest in a battle of nerves for what he had done could be drawn from him. He pretended to have been converted and to be penitent, but his conversation and lineaments were vulgar and beastly to the end. The condemned man passed the last night of his life on earth without displaying any nervousness. On the contrary, he seemed to enjoy his rolls, and sang and danced with the jail officials and others with apparent unconcern for his future until 12.30 this morning. He then went to bed and slept until 4 A.M.

A Murderer's Death Dance.

Fiddling and Singing the Night Before His Execution.

The Utica, N.Y., Feb. 9—Clement Arthur Day was executed in Utica jail at 10:24 ½ o'clock this morning in the presence of 24 citizens, including all officials. He was declared dead in 11 ½ minutes. His neck was broken. Before he left his cell, he declared that he had nothing further to say to the public. On his knees, in the presence of the Rev. E. Owen, his spiritual adviser, he declared himself guiltless of premeditated murder. Four drams of croton oil, sufficient to kill four men, were found in his cell within a week. His father declared he would never be executed.

Day clapped his hands after the death warrant was read, and smiled. On walking over the ice in the jail yard he laughed heartily over the falls of the sheriff, Rev. E Owen, a newspaper reporter, and Special Deputy Burke, exclaiming: "That's four of them." He yawned while his legs were being strapped on the scaffold. He shook hands and kissed Deputy Burke, and assisted Deputy Ballow in adjusting the rope about his neck, He smiled as the cap was drawn over his face and the smile was still there when the body was cut down.

The crime for which Day was hanged was the murder of his paramour, Johanna Rosa Cross. The crime was committed on the banks of the Black River canal the 9th of last June. Day's father, a lock tender, was the only witness of the tragedy. Day was jealous of his mistress and feared she would leave him. She had tried many times to get his permission for her to visit her mother, but he always refused, saying she would never return. The day before the tragedy she received a letter from her mother saying she was dying and asking the daughter to come to her. She wrote a reply to the letter and she and Day started down the bank of the canal toward Boonville, where they intended to mail it. They had gone but a short distance when Day turned on her and struck her with a butcher knife.

She fell and he continue cutting until eight distinct cuts were made, one of which entered the heart and another the abdomen. The father informed the authorities of the crime, and after spending a day in the woods the murderer gave himself up. In the interviews with him after his arrest not a particle of regret for what he had done could be drawn from him. He pretended to have been converted and to be penitent, but his conversation and instincts were vulgar and beastly to the end. The condemned man passed the last night of his life on earth without displaying any nervousness. On the contrary, he seem to enjoy his violin, and sang and danced with jail officials and others with apparent unconcern for his future until 12:30 this morning. He then went to bed and slept until 6:30.

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

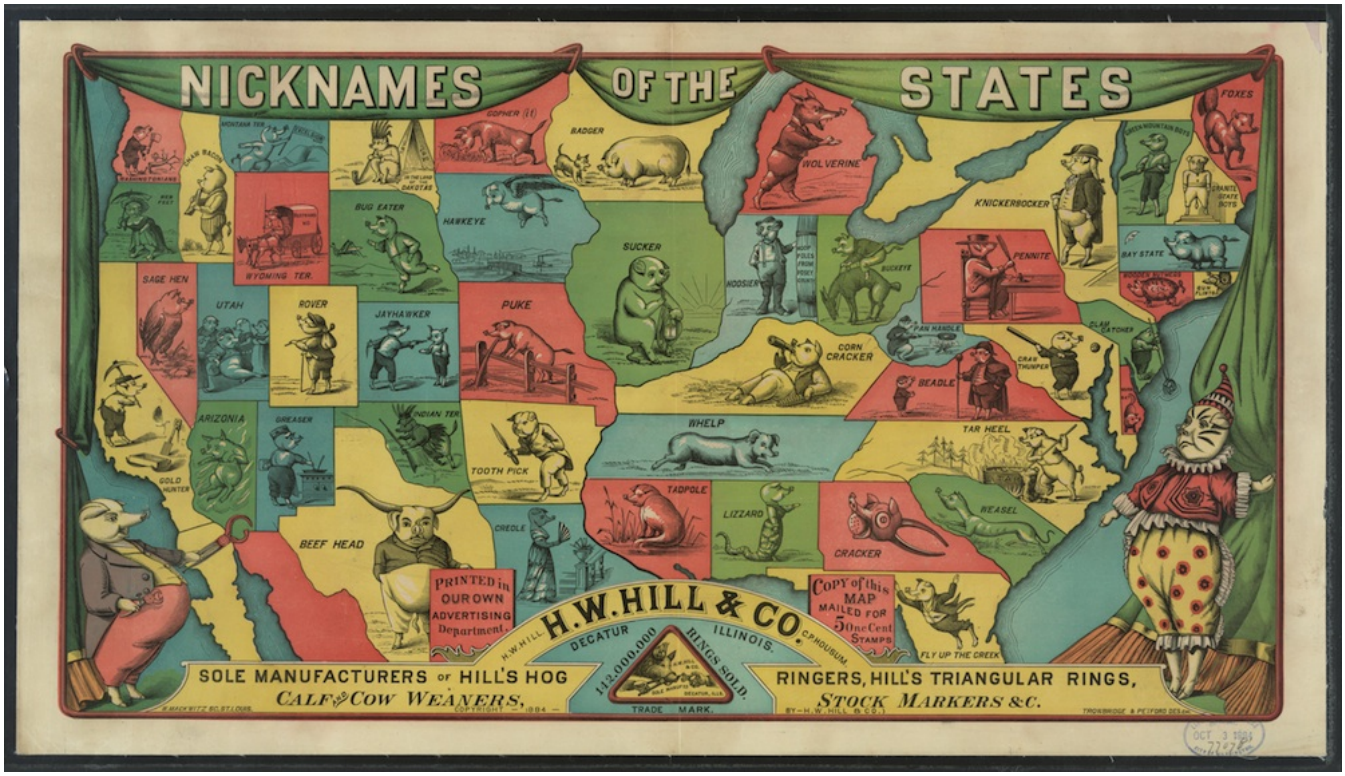
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

THE VAULT HISTORICAL TREASURES, ODDITIES, AND DELIGHTS

JAN. 18 2017 1:02 PM

An Odd and Obsolete 19th-Century Nickname Map of the American States

By Rebecca Onion



Library of Congress

This nickname map, printed as a promotional item by the livestock supply company H.W. Hill & Co. in 1884, is a wildly haphazard representation of the variety of American state nicknames in the late 19th century.

Some of the sobriquets illustrated here are still very familiar: Ohio's *buckeye*, New York State's *knickerbocker*, North Carolina's *tar heel*. Others are now baffling: Maine's *fox* (a term **referring** to the number of Mainers who then lived in the woods, according to etymologist Barry Popik); Florida's *fly up the creek* (a **nod** to the **green heron** native to the state).

Many of the obsolete nicknames commemorated here through illustrations of cartoon pigs are not affectionate. The Kentuckian pig—the *corn cracker*, a derogatory nickname that **eventually devolved into *cracker***—reclines lazily with a bottle of liquor. The Utah pig, who goes without a nickname, appears to be a pig husband surrounded by four pig wives. And Missouri's pig, vomiting over a fence, illustrates the nickname *puke*, bestowed on a particular subset of the state's working class **by Illinoisians resentful** of their own unfortunate epithet: *sucker*.

*Click on the image above to reach a larger version, or visit the map's **page** in the Library of Congress' digital collection. I first saw this image used as an illustration **for a recent column on the topic of nicknames in** **Mosaic** **magazine**; thanks to historian **Robert Abzug** for the tip.*

***Correction, Jan. 18, 2017:** This post originally misidentified the state with the nickname "Tarheel" as Tennessee, rather than North Carolina.*

THE VAULT HISTORICAL TREASURES, ODDITIES, AND DELIGHTS

JAN. 5 2017 4:17 PM

Five More Compelling Digital History Projects We Loved in 2016

By Rebecca Onion

Last week, I **shared** five of my ten favorite digital history sites from 2016. Here, without further ado, is the second half of that list.

A Liberian Journey

History, Memory, and the Making of a Nation

A Liberian Journey offers a look into the lives and landscapes transformed by the arrival of Firestone Plantations Company in Liberia.

Through exhibits, featuring photographs, films, oral histories, and documents, an interactive map, and an archive filled with materials from a 1926 Harvard expedition, visitors are invited to interact with, reflect upon, and share their own stories about the people and places affected by this historic moment of change in Liberia.

Help us hold Trump accountable. Join Slate Plus now.

The archive **A Liberian Journey** collects moving images and still photos of rural Liberian life, made by Harvard University scientists and doctors at the behest of Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. in 1926. Because the early-20th-century images were, as the site puts it, "shaped by the white privilege and racial attitudes of American scientists," the consortium of groups that put together this site intended it as sort of a reclamation project—a place for present-day Liberians to share their own stories and photos of the people, places, and things chronicled by the Harvard visitors.

Knitting Reference Library

The Knitting Reference Library (KRL) includes the published works collected by Montse Stanley, Richard Rutt and Jane Waller. These comprise books, exhibition catalogues, knitting patterns, journals and magazines.
MORE

Share
Favorite

ABOUT COLLECTION

309 RESULTS

SORT BY VIEWS · TITLE · DATE PUBLISHED · CREATOR

Search this Collection

PART OF

University of Southampton Library
Additional Collections

Media Type

- collections 2
- texts 307

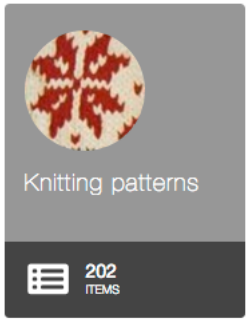
Topics & Subjects

- Knitting Reference Library 2
- University of Southampton 2
- Knitting patters 1
- Needlework 1
- Victorian knitting manuals 1

Collection

- Knitting Reference Library 309
- University of Southampton Library 309
- Victorian knitting Manuals 67
- lizajayn Favorites 33
- favorites-AnAx 16

More



My knitting book
by Lambert, Miss
980 2 0

Bison [cardigan] : Mary Maxim Double Knitting
by Mary Maxim
819 0 1

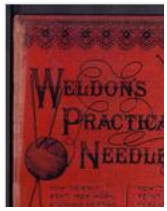
Gent.'s cable-stitc pullover : in Sandi
by Sandison
679 0

Balaclava, scarf and half mitts : [in] DK / 4 ply
by Sirdar
672 0 1

by Sirdar
625 1 2

The Winchester fancy needlework instructor and
by Savage, Mrs

Helping the trawlers



WELDON'S practi needlework (new

Help us hold Trump accountable. Join Slate Plus now.
CONTINUE READING

Knitting Reference Library/Inte

FOLLOW SLATE

SLATE ON IPHONE ANDROID KINDLE

REPRINTS

ADVERTISE WITH US

ABOUT US
CONTACT US
WORK WITH US
FEEDBACK
CORRECTIONS

USER AGREEMENT
PRIVACY POLICY
FAQ

Slate is published by The Slate Group, a Graham Holdings Company. All contents © 2017 The Slate Group LLC. All rights reserved.

Ships collided after tanker skipper peed in the sea

By Jeremy Armstrong 22:13, 28 DEC 2016 Updated 22:13, 28 DEC 2016 News

mirror.co.uk

Skipper was caught short while on lookout duty and left his station on the bridge to spend a penny over the stern

A tanker almost sank - after its hapless captain took a leak over the side instead of watching for other vessels.

The skipper was caught short while on lookout duty and left his station on the bridge to spend a penny over the stern, according to a Marine Accident Investigation Branch report.

His inattention almost cost the lives of him, his two crewmen and deckhand.

Just minutes later his vessel was rammed by a container ship four times its size.

The impact pushed the Erin Wood sideways through the water and over on to its side.

And watertight doors were left open so the sea poured inside, flooding the bridge, engine room and accommodation.

For 15 terrifying seconds the ship looked like it might capsize. But it somehow broke free from the bulbous bow of the cargo ship Darjoa and rolled back up, the report reveals.

The captain found himself clinging to the roof of the bridge. One of the crew - who had been completely submerged below deck - was washed outside when the floodwater rushed back through the open door.

Amazingly, he grabbed the top edge of the bulwark to prevent himself being swept completely overboard.

The accident inquiry found the collision - in broad daylight with good visibility at about 5pm on 29 August last year - happened largely because nobody aboard either ship was keeping a proper lookout.

The skipper of the Erin Wood, travelling from North Shields to Scrabster on Scotland’s northern coast, had seen another vessel in the distance when he went to the loo at the back of the ship, and wrongly assumed it would change direction to avoid him.

The report said the captain ‘left the bridge and went to the stern deck to urinate into the sea. While on deck, the skipper noticed a larger vessel approaching from astern. He assumed the vessel would keep clear and made no attempt to assess it further’.

He later returned to the bridge but did not see the other ship again until it hit.

The first officer on the Darjoa, travelling from Aberdeen to Lerwick in the Shetlands, could not see properly because all that was visible from his seat high on the bridge was the sky.

He also did not pay attention to equipment like radar which would have warned him of the other ship.

After a Mayday call went out, other ships is the area headed to the scene and a lifeboat from Peterhead rescued the pair from the stricken tanker, which was then towed into port.

The report said: ‘The lives of Erin Wood’s crew were placed in significant danger.

‘The skipper’s presence of mind to escape from the flooded bridge, and the deckhand managing to hold on to the bulwark to prevent being washed completely overboard, are actions that probably saved their lives.’

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Sheep stuck in traffic cone among top rescues

sky.com

The RSPCA also rescued a seagull from a vat of curry, a snake from a vacuum cleaner and a horse that was spreadeagle on a bridge.

07:54, UK, Thursday 29 December 2016

Video: The sheep was found with a cone on its head in Hertfordshire

A sheep who got her head stuck in a traffic cone was among the most unusual animal rescues of 2016, according to the RSPCA.

The ewe was spotted in a Hertfordshire field in early December and was unharmed when the cone was removed by RSPCA inspectors.

Other strange animal rescues include a **seagull which turned orange after falling into a vat of cold tandoori curry** in Newport.

The bird needed a good clean afterwards but was otherwise unharmed.

This seagull fell into a vat of curry in Newport. Picture RSPCA

Another rescue involved a two-year-old corn snake named Vecky, which was discovered trapped in its owner's vacuum cleaner in York three months after going missing.

According to the RSPCA other unusual rescues of 2016 have included:

:: A cat who was accidentally 'posted' from Cornwall to West Sussex after she climbed into a box of second-hand CDs and DVDs. Cupcake survived her 260-mile journey and was later reunited with her owners.

:: A horse that got stuck 'straddling' a footbridge, with three legs hanging from one side and one leg hanging off the other. Vets managed to pull the spreadeagled horse to safety. She was not seriously hurt.

:: A five-month-old schnauzer called Juno was rescued by fire services when she wedged her head between two bars of a fence in Manchester in March.

:: In October a tabby called Maggie May had to be freed by an engineer using a car jack when she got wedged under a stairlift at her home in Kendal.

The RSPCA found this snake trapped in a vacuum cleaner in York

:: Rescuers had to saw through garden decking to free a podgy toad who got stuck between the gaps in the plants with his legs and bum sticking in the air. He was returned to a nearby garden pond.

:: A cow that got its head stuck in a metal feeder in Wythenshawe Park in Manchester in July had to be freed by a fire and rescue team using cutting equipment.

© 2017 Sky UK

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

UPI

Search

HOME / ODD NEWS

'Ghost ship' washes up on Washington state beach after months adrift

By Ben Hooper | Jan. 25, 2017 at 1:43 PM Follow @oddnewsupi

1 Comments

Ryan Clark
@rrc23

Follow

@wsferries you didn't lose a an old ferry on #whidbeyisland did you? Washed ashore near Clinton! @KING5Seattle @komonews @Q13FOX

10:27 AM - 24 Jan 2017

1 2

Jan. 25 (UPI) -- A "ghost ship" that was drifting for at least a few months perplexed beach-goers who found it washed up on a Washington state island.

Twitter user Ryan Clark tweeted a photo Tuesday of the large boat resting on a Whidbey Island beach after it was brought in by the tide.

"You didn't lose an old ferry on #whidbeyisland did you? Washed ashore near Clinton!" Clark tweeted, tagging the official Washington State Ferries account.

Joe Smiley, a representative for the state Department of Natural Resources, told KOMO-TV officials first received reports of the boat drifting without a crew near Port Townsend "a couple of months ago."

Larry Altose of the state Ecology Department said the boat had been seen adrift in Port Susan, near the Tulalip Indian Reservation, Dec. 30. Tulalip police investigated and determined the boat didn't have any fuel aboard, so

the state National Resources Department's derelict vessel program was contacted.

The boat, called Liberty, was built in 1980 and measures 50 feet long and 12 feet wide. Officials said crews will pull the 16-ton boat off the beach during the next high tide and it will be towed to Everett.

The ship's origins, and how it came to be adrift, were unclear.

Like Us on Facebook for more stories from UPI.com

Related UPI Stories

- Abandoned boat beached at California park contained 2,400 pounds of marijuana
- Rare BMW found abandoned in Italian garage for 34 years

1 Comments http://upi.com/6486451

Topics: Ryan Clark

LATEST HEADLINES

Venomous brown snake removed from elementary school office in Australia

Jan. 25 (UPI) -- An Australian snake catcher was called to an elementary school to remove a venomous brown snake that slithered behind a teachers' office cupboard.

Divers record underwater encounter with killer whales off Norway

Jan. 25 (UPI) -- A diver off the coast of Norway captured video of an unusual underwater encounter with a pod of killer whales.

Pigeon knocks camera drone out of the sky

Jan. 25 (UPI) -- A drone operator taking video over Slovakia ended up crashing the aircraft when a pigeon crashed into it and knocked it off balance.

RSPCA rescues peanut butter-loving kitten with head stuck in jar

Jan. 25 (UPI) -- A kitten in England was found in a tight spot after its love for peanut butter left its head stuck inside a jar.

Huge deer herd blocks London street in heavy fog

Jan. 25 (UPI) -- Traffic on a road through a London park came to a halt Wednesday morning when a herd of deer decided to cross the road in heavy fog.

UPI Latest

TRENDING STORIES

Motorcyclist who landed on car trunk shares helmet camera footage

Motorcyclist crashes into car at high speed, ends up sitting on the trunk

Elk walks into Colorado store, hangs out for nearly an hour

Hikers find path blocked by snake fighting large goanna lizard

Man accused of robbing bank to escape wife pleads guilty

MORE COLLECTIONS

Popular American brands in China

Memorable selfies of 2016

Braving the cold to take part in the

Clemson beats Alabama to win

33rd Annual Polar Bear Jump

2017 CFP National Championship game

2016 NFL Cheerleaders

2016 NY Comic Con

Go Topless Pride Parade [NSFW]

2016: Most revealing red carpet looks

EXPLORE UPI

Top News
Entertainment News
Odd News
Sports News
Science News
Health News
News Photos
World News
U.S. News
Energy News
Defense News
UPI Archives

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

United Press International is a leading provider of news, photos and information to millions of readers around the globe via UPI.com and its licensing services.

With a history of reliable reporting dating back to 1907, today's UPI is a credible source for the most important stories of the day, continually updated - a one-stop site for U.S. and world news, as well as entertainment, trends, science, health and stunning photography. UPI also provides insightful reports on key topics of geopolitical importance, including energy and security.

STAY UP TO DATE

Your name Email address Subscribe

UPI

Contact Advertise Online with UPI Submit News Tips Feedback

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

TERMS OF USE | PRIVACY POLICY

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

CIA veteran claims Hitler 'faked own death and fled to South America in sub'

By Rhian Lubin Stephen Jones 14:11, 15 JAN 2017 Updated 15:00, 15 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

The bombshell revelations are made by Bob Baer - who claims he has 'proof' the Nazi leader survived the Second World War - in new TV series Hunting Hitler for The History Channel

**

A veteran CIA agent claims he has proof that Adolf Hitler 'faked his own death and then fled to South America in a submarine via Tenerife'.

The Nazi leader is famously meant to have committed suicide alongside his wife Eva Braun in his bunker at the tail end of the Second World War.

But Bob Baer and his team have scoured never-before-seen documents which he says shows 'the most evil man in history' in fact survived the allied invasion of Berlin - and beyond.

Moreover they claim Hitler made it all the way to Argentina - first by Luftwaffe plane and then via a submarine which collected him from the Canary Islands.

There, they claim, he intended to lead the 'Fourth Reich' from a secure military compound.

The bombshell revelations will be explored in a new TV series called Hunting Hitler for the History Channel - broadcast tomorrow night (Monday January 16) at 10pm.

German dictator Adolf Hitler (1889 - 1945)

Veteran CIA agent Bob Baer - assisted by US special forces sergeant Tim Kennedy, who was involved in the capture of Osama Bin Laden - explained: "The narrative the government gives us is a lie.

"If you look at the FBI files it throws open the investigation.

"What we are doing is re-examining history, history that we thought was settled that Hitler died in the bunker but the deeper we get into it, it's clear to me we don't have any facts for it."

Mr Baer's team claim to have access to 700 pages of newly declassified information.

One document, purportedly from British Intelligence, is said to claim Hitler was secretly flown out of the German capital by Luftwaffe pilot Captain Peter Baumgart.

Another document states: "American Army officials in Germany have not located Hitler's body nor is there any reliable source that Hitler is dead."

The team claim Hitler 'easily' faked his own death through the use of a double, as the corpse found by Russians was said to be five inches shorter than Hitler and with a smaller skull.

The duo also claim to have found evidence of a fifth exit from the bunker - which has never previously been reported.

Ex-United Nations war crimes investigator John Cencich also interviews an alleged witness to Hitler's escape for the TV series.

The Greek former construction worker tells Mr Cencich: "In 1945 I was building a secret construction inside the monastery in Samos."

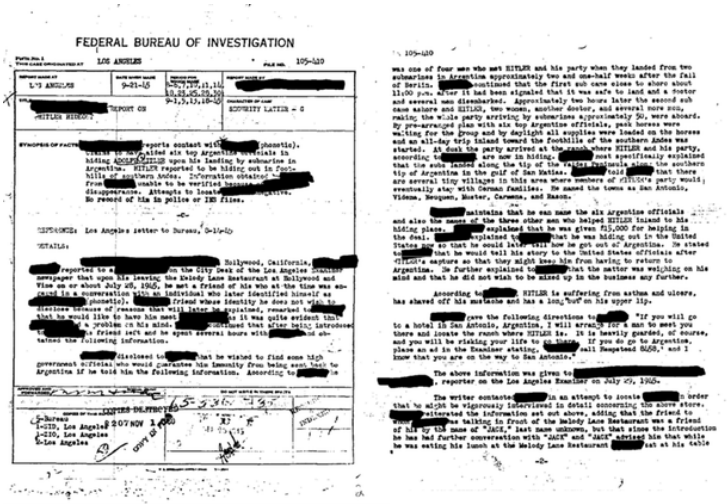
Based on new evidence John Cencich believes Hitler faked his own death

"I had to build secret tunnels and compartments for Germans," he continued. "Yes, the Germans were Nazis and one of these guys was Adolf Hitler.

"He was right there, he wasn't wearing a moustache or anything. this was May 1945.

"I realised it was really Hitler because of the airplane.

"I went to work in another town. The first thing I saw in this town was a German airplane. It had landed in an old potato field. The farmer told me there were five people who landed, they were German."



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The FBI report on Hitler's flight to South America from the Canaries

Mr Cencich said: "The accepted truth that he committed suicide is ambiguous."

When the war came to an end many Nazis made an exodus to South America to begin a new life away from Europe.

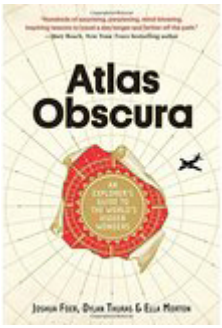
It is claimed Hitler traveled by U-Boat to Argentina from the Canary Islands to be reunited with his comrades.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

An Adorable Swedish Tradition Has Its Roots in Human Experimentation

atlasobscura.com



Mini book

How the Swedish custom of lördagsgodis, or Saturday candy, relates to tests at a 1940s mental institution.

by Hana Glasser
January 03, 2017

During the second World War, at a mental hospital outside of Lund, Sweden, researchers forced a group of patients to ingest 24 pieces of a sticky, light brown substance in a single day. These severely disabled patients were involuntary participants in a long-term study commissioned by the state medical board in cooperation with big industry, and this coerced feeding would continue for three years. The four to six doses that they consumed four times a day over that time were in some ways sweeter than their typical medicines—but also more troubling. No benefit to the patient was ever expected. Rather, the goal was to measure the damage inflicted by the substance over time and determine a dosage safe for public consumption.

The ruinous “treatment” in question was a caramel candy. The corporate underwriters were sugar, chocolate, and candy companies. And the effects of the so-called Vipeholm experiments still reverberate today. In fact, one direct result has become a lasting—even beloved—part of Swedish culture.

In Sweden, Saturday is for sweets. The Swedish custom of *lördagsgodis*, or Saturday candy, was spurred by the outcomes at Vipeholm, which definitively proved that sugar, particularly between meals, causes tooth decay. The idea behind *lördagsgodis* is moderation—to limit candy consumption to a weekly, rather than a daily, occurrence.

Once a week, Swedes are given a free pass to indulge in all the gummies, chocolates, and salty liquorice their Nordic hearts desire. (Non-Nordic hearts will most likely take a pass on the salty liquorice.) However, few Swedes standing in line at the supermarket to collect pick-and-mix candy on Saturday morning know that their weekly indulgence has its origins in the sustained mistreatment of 660 psychiatric patients.

Before the Vipeholm experiments, the cause of tooth decay had been a topic of much speculation. People blamed their dental woes on everything from wine and hot foods to masturbation and vitamin deficiency, writes Samira Kawash in her book, *Candy: A Century of Panic and Pleasure*. By 1938, leading scientists around the world were pointing to either too many carbohydrates or a lack of various vitamins as the source of dental cavities. But there was no definitive proof.

What was evident, however, was that the Swedes were in serious need of a dental intervention. A study carried out in the 1930s showed that three-year-olds there had cavities in a whopping 83 percent of their teeth, notes

Bo Krasse in a paper in the *Journal of Dental Research*. New laws mandated that municipalities provide dental care to citizens, but there were not enough dentists to meet demand. So a decision was made to shift over to a prevention-focused model, a better use of resources than long waiting lists at doctors' offices. Problem was, no one knew how to prevent tooth decay yet.

In search of clarity, Sweden's national medical board decided to undertake a long-term nutritional study to determine the root cause of dental cavities once and for all. The most desirable, accurate study, it was determined, would test human subjects. In an ideal test, one would have human subjects whose vital signs could be monitored daily, who would follow a drug or dietary regime without fail, and whose environment could be totally controlled by the researchers.

But where would one find such subjects? For the medical board, the answer was obvious. They had jurisdiction over the state mental institutions.

Of the four state mental institutions in operation at the time, Vipeholm was perhaps the bleakest. It housed the cases deemed fully "uneducable." Many patients could not dress themselves. Many were tied to their beds. The doors of the hospital were locked at all times and the only private bedroom was an isolation chamber without any furniture, where patients in solitary slept on a bed bolted to the middle of the floor. At mealtimes, there were no knives or forks, only spoons.

After an initial study focused on vitamins, the infamous Carbohydrate Study began in 1946. The 660 Vipeholm patients were chosen to undergo variations on extreme sugar consumption. One group consumed sugar in a solution, one group consumed sugary bread at meals, and the last group consumed special toffees between meals. The caramels had been specially formulated for stickiness, so that they would cling to teeth and gums. When the study ended, 50 of the research subjects had completely ruined teeth.

The Vipeholm study was a success insofar as it positively identified a link between sugar consumption and tooth decay. It was also reprehensible. It was the relative helplessness and immobility of the patients that made them attractive test subjects. In the dogged pursuit of a healthier society, the powers that be sacrificed the health of society's most vulnerable members.

The Swedes were hardly alone in pursuing highly questionable controlled human experiments at this time. For example, the United States injected radioactive substances into otherwise healthy living subjects as part of the Manhattan Project. And, of course, concurrent to the Vipeholm experiments in Sweden, experimentation on human subjects was reaching its odious zenith in the Third Reich, with prisoners in Nazi concentration camps subjected to some tests so innately depraved that they qualify mostly as blood sport.

In 1947, following the revelations of these practices in the camps, the Counsel for War Crimes adopted the Nuremberg Code, which laid out a comprehensive set of medical and scientific ethics, including the principles of informed consent and nonmaleficence (or "do no harm"). These principles would later be incorporated into the Declaration of Helsinki, the current defining, international document on modern research ethics.

The lasting legacy of Vipeholm, however, turned out to be something a bit sweeter—Saturday candy. In 1957, following publication of the Vipeholm study's results, a coordinated public health campaign kicked into gear. Radio PSAs, home-delivered pamphlets, and posters in waiting rooms encouraged young Swedes to brush their

teeth and eat less sweets. The new message around candy was not prohibition, but moderation. The mantra was “All the sweets you like, but only once a week!”

Even today, you would be hard-pressed to find a Swedish child whose face doesn’t light up at the news that Saturday has arrived. Indeed, data implies that Swedish adults are equally excited. Swedes, it turns out, love candy. They consume more candy per capita than almost anyone else. And annoyingly, they do so while maintaining one of of the highest levels of dental health in the world.

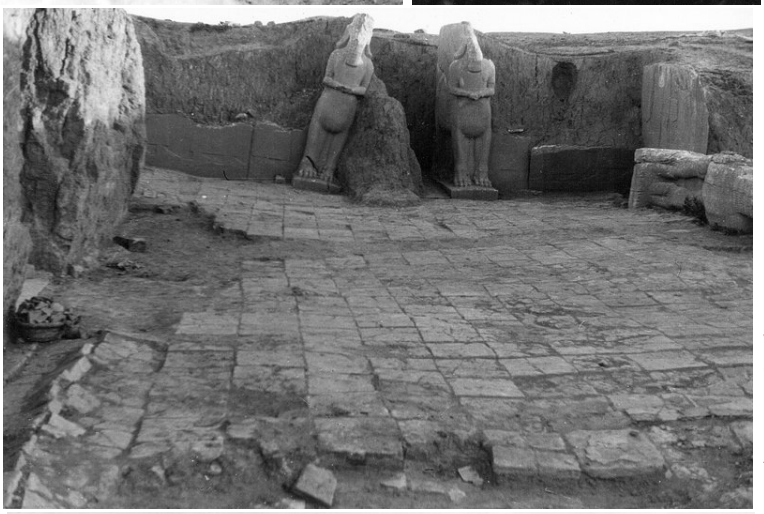
Generations of good teeth and a twee tradition of Saturday sweets are surely the coziest possible outcome of the dark days at Vipeholm. But looking back, it’s hard to sweeten the pill.

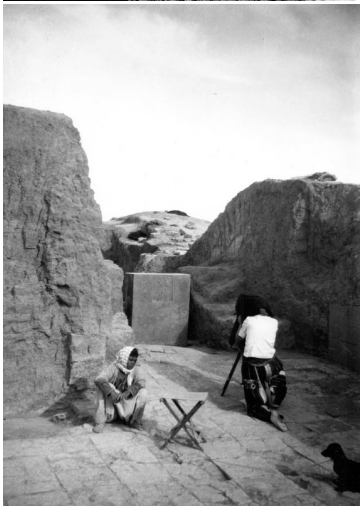
© 2017 Atlas Obscura. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Agatha Christie had little-known role in ancient Nimrud

apnews.com





Agatha Christie had little-known role in ancient Nimrud

By LORI HINNANT

Dec. 31, 2016

NIMRUD, Iraq (AP) — Her diligence and face cream cleaned Nimrud's most famous ivory. She captured the archaeological dig on celluloid and Kodak film, developing the prints in water painstakingly filtered from the nearby Tigris River.

And every day, after she balanced the books and arranged for the next day's meals, Agatha Christie sat down to write.

AP

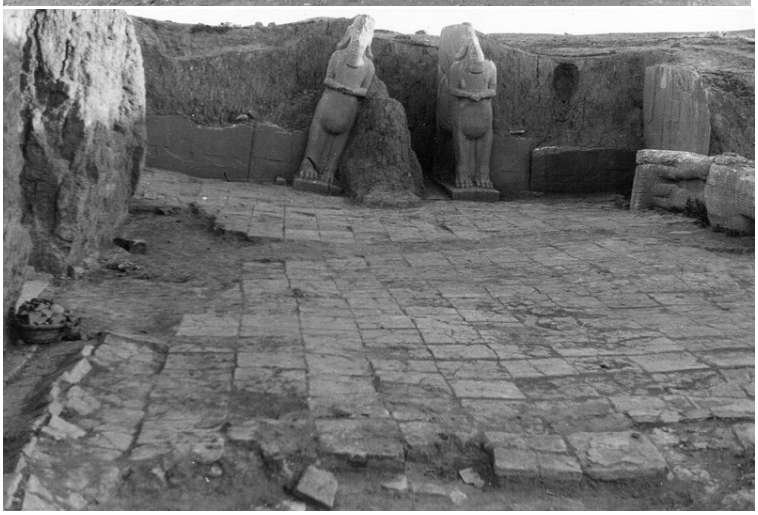
The British mystery writer's second husband, Max Mallowan, was an archaeologist — respected in his field, but with nowhere near the renown of his older wife. But Christie set aside her career for months each year to accompany Mallowan into the field.

Mallowan built his career on digs in the 1950s in Nimrud, the remains of the ancient Assyrian city that survived 3,000 years only to be blown into rubble by Islamic State group conquerors last year. And Christie, then in her 60s, was there to document his work, in photo and film.

Every winter, according to her grandson Mathew Prichard, "they disappeared into Iraq or Syria and returned in May or June. To her it was just as important as writing. Her role, and she was quite old-fashioned about this ... Her role in the 1950s was to go on these digs with her husband and help him with the photography and dealings with the local labor force," he said.

Famed for her detective characters Mrs. Marple and Hercule Poirot, Christie had a longtime fascination with archaeology that showed up in novels set in the Mideast, including "Death on the Nile" and "Murder in Mesopotamia."

Christie's non-fiction book "Come Tell Me How You Live," about a series of digs in Syria in the 1940s, is testament to her love for adventure, travel and the ancient sites of civilization.



"Inshallah, I shall go there again, and the things that I love shall not have perished from this earth," she wrote in conclusion in 1944.

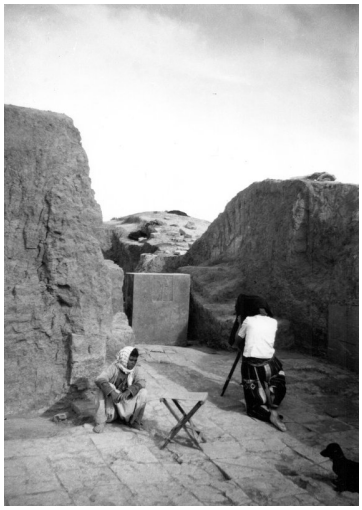
But seven decades later, one of her favorite places — Nimrud — is in danger as never before.

Islamic State fighters took over the site near Mosul in 2014, and in 2015 smashed the winged bulls guarding the entrance and blew up the Northwest Palace where Mallowan made his most significant discoveries. The site, though liberated last month from the extremists, is reduced to rubble, largely unguarded and vulnerable to looters.

Among Mallowan's finds were a series of ivories, including one of a woman's face dubbed the Mona Lisa of Nimrud, which was extracted with great difficulty from a muddy well.

"She spent hours drying it and cleaning it off, with her face cream," said Georgina Herrmann, a British archaeologist who worked there with Mallowan.

Other ivories were discovered smashed, and Christie delighted in assembling them, Herrmann said.



"Agatha was a passionate solver of jigsaw puzzles and crossword puzzles. She laid all these pieces out — there must have been hundreds of them — and put them together."

Christie and Mallowan would be dismayed to learn what has become of the site, according to Prichard, who recalled his grandfather teaching him the basics of cuneiform writing as a boy.

"To say they would have thought it was a tragedy is an understatement," he said. "If my grandparents could somehow be alive again and see the newspapers for a week, they would not have recognized the places where they had been and lived and worked."

___

Associated Press photographer Alastair Grant in London contributed to this report.

All contents © copyright 2017 Associated Press. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Pastor claims he miraculously cured woman's 'vaginal warts' with his shoe

By Chris Baynes 22:38, 18 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Bizarre footage shows Zendile Andries November passing his footwear to a woman in his congregation at Victorious Faith Ministries

Faith healers are no strangers to outlandish claims.

But this South African pastor stepped things up a notch - by purporting to have cured a woman's 'vaginal warts' with his shoe.

Bizarre footage shows Zendile Andries November asking a woman in his congregation about the 'pimples'.

The Victorious Faith Ministries pastor - who also claims he can cure Aids with the power of prayer - then removes his shoe and hands to the woman, who places it between her thighs.

She then dramatically drops to the floor with the churchman's footwear lodged between her legs.

After a visit to the bathroom, another woman announces that her friend's condition has been miraculously cured - to cheers from the congregation at the Bloemfontein church.

The pastor later told South African newspaper The Times : "The woman came to me about pimples on her vagina. This made it impossible for her to sleep with her husband.

"Because the problem was on her private part I decided to use the shoe. I believe in miracles and God uses anything to heal."

He claimed: "I also cured a lot of people of HIV/Aids, immediately after praying for them I ask them to go to the nearest clinic and test. Most of them come back negative, and those that are positive I encourage them to have faith and continue to pray for them.

"I specialise in deliverance for those who are demon possessed, spiritual husbands and diseases."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Air hostess who somehow survived 33,000 feet drop is found dead

metro.co.uk

Harley Tamplin for Metro.co.ukSaturday 24 Dec 2016 5:04 pm

Vesna Vulovic became a celebrity after the fall (Picture: AP)

An air stewardess who miraculously survived a fall from 33,000 feet has died at the age of 66.

Vesna Vulovic became a national hero in Serbia, when, aged 21 in 1972, her plane exploded in mid-air and she fell 10,000 metres.

All 27 other passengers and crew on board the Douglas DC-9 airliner died, but Ms Vulovic somehow survived the drop.

Serbian state TV said she has been found dead by her friends in her apartment in Belgrade, and the cause of death is not known.

Ms Vulovic was working as a Yugoslav Airlines flight attendant when the plane blew up over Czechoslovakia.

Vulovic eventually returned to near-full health (Picture: AP)
The young air stewardess suffered horrendous injuries in the drop (Picture: AP)

Trapped in the aircraft's tail cone, she fell to Earth and landed on a steep slope near a village, with branches and thick snow softening the impact and cushioning her descent down the hill.

She was rescued by a woodsman who heard her screams in the dark forest.

She suffered a fractured skull, two crushed vertebrae and a broken pelvis, ribs and legs, and was in a coma for 10 days.

Initially paralyzed from the waist down, Ms Vulovic made a near-full recovery and returned to work for the airline in a desk job.

She later used her fame to support political causes (Picture: AP)

She never regained memory of the incident.

It was suspected that a bomb was planted inside the jet during a stopover in Denmark, but no arrests were ever made.

MetroUK @MetroUK

© 2016 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Airstream Ranch,' the RV Stonehenge of Tampa Bay, is being torn down

By LaVendrick Smith, Times Staff Writer

'Airstream Ranch,' the RV Stonehenge of Tampa Bay, is being torn down 02/09/17 [Last modified: Thursday, February 9, 2017 3:53pm] Photo reprints | Article reprints

tampabay.com

Tampa Bay Times

WINNER OF 12 PULITZER PRIZES

11:44.PM, Thursday, February 9th, 2017
LAVENDRICK SMITHTampa Bay Times

Thursday, February 9, 2017
5:00am

DOVER — For some, it was art. For others, a public nuisance. Very soon, however, the well-known fixture off Interstate 4 will cease to exist.

"Airstream Ranch," the **popular and controversial** display of RVs lodged in the ground is being torn down.

The display was built in January 2007, when Frank Bates built the project near his dealership, Bates RV. Bates said at the time he was trying to honor the 75th anniversary of Airstream campers, a line of RVs known for their rounded shape.

The Stonehenge-like row of RVs was instantly polarizing. While some residents complained about it, thousands supported the campers and viewed it as art. The site quickly became a tourist site.

UPDATE: *Iconic 'Airstream Ranch' display demolished to make room for new Airstream dealership*

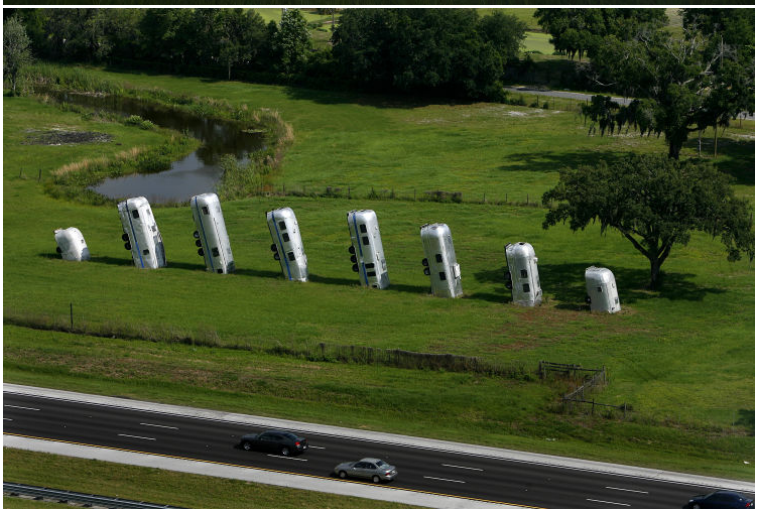
The project immediately faced opposition from county officials. Hillsborough County Code Enforcement ruled the display violated zoning and sign restrictions and rules against debris and proper storage in 2008.

Bates was fined $100 a day after refusing to remove the campers from the ground.

He was **ultimately victorious** in 2010 when a panel of judges found the installation to be legal and reversed his fines. The county decided not to appeal the decision.

Bates and his wife, Dorothy, sold Bates RV to RV One Superstores in 2013, and the dealership is now called Tampa RV. The Bateses could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Nor could a representative of RV One Superstores be reached to explain why Airstream Ranch will be no more.



Times senior news researcher John Martin contributed to this report.

- 490 First Avenue South
- St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- 727-893-8111

© 2016 All Rights Reserved Tampa Bay Times

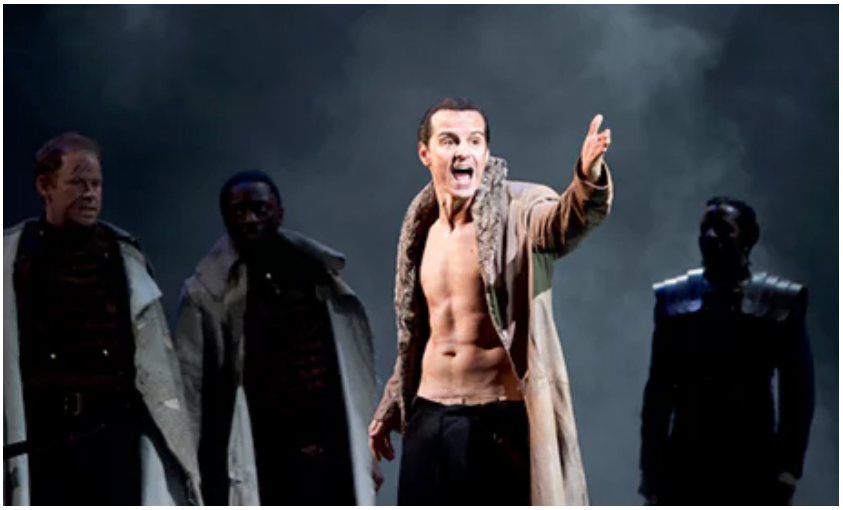
Alas, poor Yorick! The shocking life of theatre's greatest skull

Andrew Dickson
Thursday 16 February 2017 Last modified on Thursday 16 February 2017 theguardian.com

Alas, poor Yorick! The shocking life of theatre's greatest skull

It's been licked, kissed and caressed. It's been played by a beige sweater and the real remains of a Hamlet-loving horse thief. As Andrew Scott gets ready to be or not to be, we explore the history of Yorick's cranium

Philosophical puzzle, memento mori, bleak joke on the nature of existence: interpret it however you want, but Hamlet lifting a skull is one of the defining dramatic images of all time. When Andrew Scott comes on for the graveyard scene at the Almeida later this month, in a production directed by Robert Icke, he will come face to face not only with Yorick, but with the ghosts of thousands of actors who, over the last four centuries, have done exactly the same.



Moriarty's first moves: Andrew Scott's stage roles – in pictures

No other piece of stage business has burned itself so deeply into the collective consciousness. All the greats have been there, from Richard Burbage to Thomas Betterton, Sarah Bernhardt to Laurence Olivier. Even Bart Simpson has got in on the act.

Given all this, it's worth reflecting on the fact that, for Hamlet's earliest audiences, seeing real human remains on stage would have been a shock. The diary of theatre manager Philip Henslowe (1550-1616), who ran the Rose on Bankside, lists any number of exotic props – among them a "snake", a "tree of golden apples" and two "lion's heads" – but a human skull is not among them. And as far as it's possible to tell, no 16th-century play before Hamlet called for one.

Some have speculated that in creating the backstory of the jester Yorick, Shakespeare was paying tribute to a man called Richard Tarlton, Elizabeth I's favourite clown and a huge star in the generation immediately before his own. Tarlton had died in 1588, so it's theoretically possible his own cranium could have been available a decade or so later,

provided Shakespeare's company had not been too queasy about trying to get hold of it. But the props master at the Globe most likely employed the simplest option: bribing someone for access to the charnel house of a nearby church, where skeletal remains were stored.

As with so much about the early years of Hamlet's life in the theatre, the evidence is vague, and it's not until a century and half later that evidence of how the graveyard scene was staged begins to appear. In 1755, the critic Paul Hiffernan bemoaned the use of "real Skulls and bones in the Gravedigging Scene of Hamlet, to which a wooden Substitution might be easily made". By the 1850s, another critic was lamenting the "highly indecent, at the same time repulsive to the audience" practice of employing human remains.

Such concerns lingered into the 20th century. After bringing a real skull into rehearsals at the National Theatre in 1975, director Peter Hall was overwhelmed by the "actuality of the scene … everybody aware of a dead man's skull among us". So much so that he decided not to use it in the performance. Since then, companies have experimented with wooden, plaster, papier-mache, fibreglass or plastic replicas, though as much for reasons of fragility as human dignity.

Yet even if actors or audiences are unnerved by the idea of using real remains, there seems to have been no shortage of people eager to donate their own and achieve a few moments of posthumous glory. The American actor Edwin Booth, who became a phenomenon as Hamlet on Broadway from the 1860s onwards, was reputed to have used a skull given to his actor-manager father by a notorious horse thief so desperate to appear in Hamlet that he was willing to do so even after his own death.

A similar tale concerns the barnstorming English star George Frederick Cooke (1756–1812), whose skull was reputedly retrieved from his grave and used at a one-off performance in New York in the 1860s. According to a witness – who swore to the prop's authenticity – Cooke "enacted a great part that night", thus stealing the show one last time. Another skull has become even more famous: signed by many of the great Hamlets of the 19th century, among them Booth, William Charles Macready, Edwin Forrest and Charlotte Cushman, it now resides in the Furness Library at Philadelphia University, testament to the hazy line between real-life remains and theatrical relic.

It is a tradition that has continued up to the present day, as the story of musician and theatre-lover André Tchaikowsky attests. After Tchaikowsky's death in 1982, it was

discovered that the pianist had donated his body to medical research, with the proviso that his skull would be offered to the Royal Shakespeare Company. Mark Rylance rehearsed with it seven years later, but was unsettled by the story of its provenance, and it wasn't until David Tennant played Hamlet in 2009 that the skull was finally used in a live performance, which provoked a minor media frenzy.

Even though the company claimed that the prop had been replaced by a replica, so as not to "distract" audiences, artistic director Gregory Doran admitted months later that Tchaikowsky had in fact starred alongside Tennant throughout. Currently, the company keeps at least four fake skulls in its props warehouse in Stratford, and would be prepared to manufacture more if a director or actor requested it.

The story of how actors have handled the skull is no less varied. The great Victorian actor Henry Irving reportedly "stroked Yorick's skull gently with his hand", in performances in the 1870s, while the French star Charles Fechter (1824–79) made as if to kiss it, before turning away with a shiver.

In his 1948 film adaptation, Laurence Olivier pointedly touched the skull's cheekbone at the line "let her paint an inch thick", and whispered bitterly in its ear at "make her laugh at that". In a modern-dress production, Ralph Fiennes out-Fechtered Fechter, "plant[ing] his lips on Yorick's mucky skull, as if curious about the taste of mortal soil", in the words of the New Yorker's critic.

So enduring – or cliched – has the symbol become that some directors have dispensed with it altogether. Thomas Ostermeier's production, first seen at Berlin's Schaubühne in 2008, cut the gravedigger scene entirely, merely hinting at Yorick's presence with projected video imagery of a skull, which tracked eerily across Hamlet's own features. When Maxine Peake played an androgynous Dane in 2014, her switch of gender was not the only transformation on offer. Instead of picking up something resembling a real cranium, the object she addressed as "Yorick" was a rolled-up beige sweater.

What will Andrew Scott do? No one's saying, but given that his director, Robert Icke, transformed Aeschylus's Oresteia into a kind of TV gameshow and renamed Chekhov's Uncle Vanya "Uncle Johnny", presumably we should expect the unexpected.

• Hamlet is at the Almeida, London, 17 February to 8 April. Box office: 020-7359 4404.

© 2017 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The ancient art of burying your dog

More Laura Hobgood-Oster.
Sunday, Apr 6, 2014 07:00 AM PDT

salon.com

Some of the earliest hints of the shared living places of humans and dogs are actually are their dying places

Laura Hobgood-Oster

(Credit: Reuters/Lucy Nicholson)

Excerpted from “A Dog's History of the World”

A large corner cabinet, carefully dusted and arranged, announced the centrality of dogs to this modest stone home in central Texas. The humans living here, a couple in their early sixties, spoiled and pampered the dogs. After lives of cuddling and napping on laps, when the time came for each dog to bid a final farewell, she or he had a new spot designated in the cabinet. The day I visited there were already fifteen small urns, each with a picture, name and the arrival and departure dates of a precious Chihuahua. In addition to the tiny dogs who had already taken their supposed, or at least hopeful, journey to the afterlife, the five current pet Chihuahuas bounced happily around the house. This was Chihuahua heaven while the dogs were alive and, based on the status of those in the memorial corner, the humans hoped for Chihuahua paradise after their death.

Thousands of generations ago humans and dogs paired up with each other. From the beginning the relationship has been more than pragmatic. Depths of meaning lie beneath the surface and, at times, come bubbling up, revealing something of the primal essence of this interspecies partnership. As humans started to ask questions about what matters, about why some live and others die, about suffering and love, dogs were already lurking in our shadows and in our memories.

These are all religious questions — these deep questions of meaning. To understand truly the dog — human journey, its religious nature must be acknowledged and comprehended.Even acknowledging that other animals have something to do with the religious foundations and sensibilities of humans can be a controversial claim. But prehistoric expressions of a quest for meaning frequently include other animals. Cave paintings, such as those in Chauvet, beg for interpretation as nascent religious texts. While the actual reason or reasons that Homo sapiens also became Homo religiosus may never be known, there is one widely dreaded tragedy of life that has certainly sent humans on a quest for understanding death.

And in this hunt to figure out why humans die, they often sought the company of dogs. From all appearances, or at least as far as the popular media covers phenomena, the last twenty years have witnessed the growth of a new “craze”—formal rituals for interring or at least memorializing dogs a different light on this apparent trend. Humans and dogs share intimate and forceful connections in life. But in addition to that powerful link, for thousands of years these two companion species have been bound together by and in death.

So, while this connection to dogs as significant subjects in the quest to comprehend or grapple with death might seem to be a relatively new, albeit powerful, religious phenomenon, deep historical roots provide insight into the long-standing relationship between humans, dogs, and their shared experiences of death, as well as their journeys into the afterlife.

Interestingly, some of the earliest hints of the human-dog shared living spaces are their dying places. Incidents of common interment, the joint ritual burial of humans and dogs, show up early in the archaeological record.

Delving into this fascinating history of the dog's journey into the afterlife, or at least the human speculation about this hoped for canine eternity, provides yet another window into the significance of this cross-species bond.

Something Old or Something New?

Commemorating and ritualizing the dog dead stretches back thousands of years. But relatively recently, during the Victorian Age in England, a vivid imagination of death merged with the rapidly growing idea of canine fidelity to generate a new focus on dog memorials. It was in this era, a type of golden age for many pet dogs, that the first modern pet cemetery was founded. Sentimental ideas about death and the afterlife are reflected in passionate and personal dog memorials.

In 1881 a little Maltese named Cherry, who belonged to frequent visitors at the park, died from old age. The family asked the keeper of the Victoria's Gate Lodge if they, perchance, could bury Cherry in the back garden since the little dog had so loved visiting the park. The gatekeeper gladly agreed and, for the next several decades, pets were interred in this quaint, peaceful cemetery. The headstones clearly indicate a hoped-for afterlife for the beloved canines. Darling "Tiddy" 1895–1901, was remembered with this expectation: "Shall he whose name is love deny our loving friends a home above? Nay, he who orders all things for the best in paradise will surely give them rest." And the headstone for Wee Bobbit, who died in 1901 after six years as a "most devoted friend," reads, "When our lonely lives are o'er and our spirits from this earth shall roam we hope he'll be there waiting to give us a welcome home." Not only a statement of hope, the ideas on these headstones express a plea to the divine, a genuine request to grant a place in heaven for the adored, faithful dogs.

Across the Channel in France, the Cimetière des Chiens et Autres Animaux Domestiques (Cemetery of Dogs and Other Domestic Animals) just outside of Paris was also established in the late nineteenth century. At that point a new law had gone into effect in Paris requiring pets to be buried at least 100 meters from the nearest home, rather than either being thrown out with the garbage or clandestinely buried in small yards or plots. Thus the first public dog cemetery in France opened to accommodate the new need for an interment space. Famous dogs, including "Rin Tin Tin," the German shepherd movie star who originally hailed from France during World War I, are buried there, and monuments to dog heroes such as Barry, the Saint Bernard, fill the lawn. Barry's headstone reads, "he saved the lives of forty people, he was killed by the forty-first" (apparently from exhaustion after carrying so many people to safety, not a deliberate attack on the dog hero). This Saint Bernard deserves the title of dog-martyr nonetheless. "Drac," the pet of a Romanian princess (Elisabeth, who married George II, king of Greece, who was later exiled), also graces the lawn and gives us insight into Elisabeth's situation as well, "Fidèle compagnon des heures tragiques; Ami précieux dans l'exil" ("Faithful companion during tragic times and precious friend in exile"). Apparently this Romanian woman found comfort in the fact that Drac (a fitting name for a Romanian hound) accompanied her to her new home. Less prominent canine inhabitants still have elaborate statues, some with framed images of the dog interred below, and touching memorials adorn the headstones. An interesting short tribute film provides a panorama of the graveyard, giving the viewer a sense of the intimacy expressed in these final canine resting places.

The nineteenth-century practice of establishing formal cemeteries for dogs and other pets expanded rapidly to the United States. Hartsdale Pet Cemetery, located just outside of New York City, was founded in 1896 by Dr. Samuel Johnson, a veterinarian who had also been instrumental in establishing the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The cemetery is still functioning and growing over a century later. Almost 70,000 pets (mostly dogs, though also cats, rabbits, and even a lion cub) are buried there. And Hartsdale is definitely not alone. From this same time period, stories of individual dogs and the people who cared about them enough to memorialize them after death are frequently shared.

One example from the opposite side of the United States is Faust, a tough little American water spaniel, who traveled to Alaska with his owner, the equally tough Frances E. "Fizzy" Fitz. Fizzy was one of the few women participating in the Alaskan Gold Rush of the early twentieth century. Images from the time show the two of them trekking through the frontier, mining for gold and surviving in the rough world of the Seward Peninsula in Alaska. As a successful woman living in a difficult and dangerous culture, Fizzy trusted Faust to take on such important roles as safeguarding their earnings. Fizzy kept her savings in a leather pouch on Faust's collar. He had been her companion for sixteen years when he died, and this fact, combined with their rather extraordinary life together, earned him a lengthy obituary in the Seattle Daily Times in 1906. The memorial hailed him as "one of the best-known dogs of the Seward Peninsula" and remarked on his "varied and picturesque career." Not only had he traveled "with the luxury of a prima donna over more than 25,000 miles," he was "the only Journey dog

ever permitted cabin passage on the steamship Victoria." The remarkable, substantive obituary concluded with an indication of his burial place, the dog cemetery beyond Beacon Hill, close to his owner's home in Seattle.

At first glance, it might seem possible that memorializing and interring dogs is a relatively new, western European and American phenomenon, merely a remnant of the Victorian cult of domesticity with its idealizing and humanizing of dogs. A seemingly obvious conclusion would be that when this idealization of faithful canines combined with a culture of sanitizing, memorializing, hiding, and denying death, dog cemeteries emerged. To a certain extent current practices of commemorating the canine dead do continue to reflect this particular Victorian sentiment and practice. But there is a kink in this theory because the roots are much deeper than the nineteenth century and they reveal amazing links between humans, dogs, and death that extend into the initial encounters between these two species.

Digging Into the First Canine Burials: Is It Ritual or Rubbish?

At the entrance of a 12,000-year-old dwelling at Ein Mallaha, an ancient site in the upper Jordan Valley, a human skeleton lies close to a large slab of limestone (thus indicating a ritual burial). The skeleton was curled on its right side (damage to the pelvis prevents sex determination, but the individual was old when she or he died). Under the skull, as if to provide a pillow, was the person's left arm. The left hand, in turn, stretched out from under the person's head to rest gently on the chest of a puppy, buried with this older person. Very significantly, the skeleton of the puppy was complete, not a skull alone or a collection of bones alone. This indicates that the puppy was viewed as an intact individual, who needed to remain such in death as well as life, rather than a symbol or tool. Based on the teeth and bones, the puppy was probably four to five months old at the time of death. It is a tender scene that suggests an affectionate relationship rather than a purely pragmatic one. The puppy was there because the deceased human was assumed to desire its presence in the afterlife for companionship. In other words, the pup was not a way of providing food in the afterlife, but rather was a companion in the journey.

There are other examples of remains of animals buried with humans in this ancient culture, a context that needs to be considered when pondering why this puppy was placed in the grave alongside the elderly human companion. A young man was buried with antlers on his head, possibly to equate him with hunting and antelopes or other deer-like animals. Another person was buried with a belt made from animal teeth. But the relational aspect of the puppy seems to be unique even amidst these myriad animal-associated grave goods. The dog was a complete skeleton — a full animal — buried as a whole in relationship to a whole human being. In other words, there was not just an item symbolizing the dog, but the actual dog as a whole creature.

Burials such as this one offer evidence that, from the earliest days of this interspecies connection, there was something more than solely a utilitarian or symbolic relationship. Rather, the shared evolution of humans and dog was and is as deeply ritualistic, religious, and sacred as it was and is pragmatic. This conclusion comes after considering myriad examples of intentionally and thoughtfully buried dogs all over the globe.

Much of the earliest archaeological evidence for dogs is connected with burial sites deliberately planned by humans. Over 14,000 years ago, the Bonn-Oberkassel dog was not Journey to the Afterlife only intentionally buried but was interred with humans. Pre-historic dog burials have been discovered on every continent (except Antarctica, where there were no wolves or humans).

Following the Bonn-Oberkassel dog, the oldest dogs found thus far are in Siberia and date to over 10,000 years before the present.

In the meantime, there is ample support for the claim that humans extended their relationship with dogs beyond the practical roles in hunting or guarding in this life and into whatever the next life might hold. This expanded role crossed cultural borders; it was widespread, and seems to have, at times at least, crossed hierarchical boundaries as well. Ritual recognition of dogs related to death was not just a frivolous practice of the privileged humans. In far northern Europe (Denmark and Sweden), for example, dogs were buried in the graves of people from different socio-economic classes, and dogs figured centrally in a variety of funerary rituals. In even these very cold climates, dogs were deliberately buried, crouched in a sleeping position and covered with red ochre. It appears that they were also interred with grave goods to carry them through into the afterlife.

While almost all of these early burials are obviously anonymous, as are the human burials, the name and life story of at least one ancient dog is well known because of the incredible attention paid to him after his death. In

a burial ground dating from about 2,700–2,600 BCE and located not far from the famous Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, an inscribed piece of limestone reads,

> The dog which was the guard of His Majesty. Abuwtiyuw was his name. His Majesty ordered that he be buried ceremonially, that he be given a coffin from the royal treasury, fine linen in great quantity, and incense. His Majesty also gave perfumed ointment, and ordered that a tomb be built for him by the gangs of masons. His Majesty did this for him in order that he (the dog) might be honored before the great god, Anubis.

The archaeologists who discovered this fascinating inscription suggest that the dog likely belonged to a servant of the ruler, but became attached to “His Majesty,” barking in order to protect him. Because of this fine canine service in life, the ruler decided to have the dog ritually buried in order to make sure that he would continue such devotion to him in the afterlife as well. No small expense went into the burial, indicating how important it was to the king to have this dog with him for eternity.

The practice of dog burials occurred frequently in Iron Age Britain as well, a time period that extends from about 800 BCE until the Roman conquest of Britain in 43 CE. Archaeological records note numerous “special animal deposits,” including one where the body of the dog was covered in large glacial pebbles. This same treatment was given to a number of human skeletons as well, suggesting that at least this particular dog was significant enough to warrant special attention in death. At another site a very small adult dog, a toy-sized breed, was carefully buried late in the period. This rare find—there is little evidence for toy dogs in Britain before the Roman conquest indicates that there might have been some early trading for very specific types of dogs occurring at that point. Maybe this small dog was a luxury item, a pampered pet for a powerful person whose love continued after death. At other sites large numbers of dog remains were uncovered, for example over fifty dog skulls were found in pits during excavations at Silchester.

The Mediterranean world continues to yield amazing archaeological discoveries related to intentional dog burials. Arguably one of the most significant, and definitely one of the most extensive, is the ancient canine cemetery at Ashkelon (in modern-day Israel) where well over 1,000 dogs were buried during the fifth century BCE. Scholars will never know exactly how many dogs were interred at Ashkelon since a portion of this burial ground is now under the sea, but the evidence is striking. Already over eight hundred dog graves have been excavated, with many more yet to be uncovered. The canines — some very young, even fetal, others adults — are carefully laid to rest on their side with their tail curled between their legs. There was obviously great care given to these burials and, quite likely, some sacred connection here. As the head zoologists of the dig point out, each burial was a “discrete event” since “no skewed heads, or other skeletal distortions that characterize animals that were just pitched into a convenient hole” appear. While the dogs could have played a sacred role, it is important to note that there is no evidence of sacrifice and the age range of the dogs represents a standard mortality spread from mature adults to puppies never having survived into adulthood. In other words, the dogs died of natural causes but were still held in such esteem as to be carefully buried. The lead excavator of the site, Lawrence Stager, suggests that the dogs served as part of a healing cult, maybe even related to the Mesopotamian goddess of healing herself, Gula. It is also interesting to note that the dogs buried at Ashkelon were typical Middle Eastern dogs for that time period. In other words, they were Mediterranean mutts. These dogs were not bred as smaller pets or as aids in hunting or herding, rather they were typical village dogs ritually interred.

During the period when this marvelous dog cemetery was founded at Ashkelon, the people living there were influenced by and in contact with Phoenician culture. Interestingly, archaeologists discovered several dog cemeteries dating to the same period (roughly the 5th century BCE) in other Phoenician influenced cities, though none nearly as impressive as Ashkelon. For example, at nearby Ashdod (also on the coast), archaeologists discovered seven carefully buried dogs. Individual dogs were interred at two other eastern Mediterranean coastal cities — Berytus (modern-day Beirut) and Tel Dor — as well.

By the time Hellenistic culture dominated the Mediterranean world (after Alexander the Great, d. 323 BCE), dogs figured centrally in myriad rituals and mythological systems related to death and the afterlife. Alexander himself had a beloved dog named Peritas whom, according to a report by the historian Plutarch, the conqueror raised from a pup. When Peritas, his dear companion and compatriot, died, the powerful Alexander had him buried with the same ceremonial recognition as a human hero. After his burial, Alexander named the city where Peritas rested for eternity after his deceased dog.

It is not surprising that Greeks held individual dogs in high esteem. In Homer's epic Odyssey, the great dog Argus plays a seemingly small, yet very profound, role. Odysseus is returning home after twenty years, but he is disguised as a beggar in order to sneak into his house. As he approaches, Odysseus recognizes his dog Argus, whom he had raised and made into a powerful hunter. At this point Argus has been neglected and is extremely old; he is curled up on a pile of dung. In order to maintain his disguise, Odysseus simply states, "what a noble hound that is." Argus, however, does recognize his master, even after twenty years. While he does not have the strength to stand up, he wags his tail and droops his ears in acknowledgment. Sadly Odysseus cannot respond, except for shedding a single tear and walking by Argus. Knowing that his master has returned, Argus dies. It is this model of canine fidelity and strength that is occasionally remembered and noted in dog burials in the Greek world.

While many of the examples of such burials are touching, one instance offers a particularly poignant window into the sacred role of dogs and death. Inside a well in the Greek town of Eretria, at least twenty-six dogs were buried with at least nineteen human infants. The dogs range in age from neonatal to adult, but the infants were all newborns. While the cause of death of the infants cannot be determined, the presence of specific coins dates this mass burial to the war of Chremonides (267–261 BCE). Maybe the infants, along with their dogs, were slaughtered by the enemy, or a contagious disease rapidly moved through Eretria causing the death of a number of newborns at once. Based on many of the mythologies of the time, which are elaborated more fully below, burying the dogs with these vulnerable children might have been a way to protect them as they journeyed into the afterlife.

With this eternal journey in mind, ancient Greek dog owners spoiled them and recalled them with fondness even in the afterlife. An interesting example was found behind the Stoa of Attalos, the main public building of the ancient Athenian market. Here, a fourth-century grave contained the skeleton of a dog with a large beef bone near his head, possibly food or a toy to sustain him in the underworld. At another location, these moving words were placed on a memorial stone for a deceased dog:

> Thou who passest on the path, if haply thou dost mark this
> monument,
> Laugh not, I pray thee,
> Though it is a dog's grave; tears fell for me,
> And the dust was heaped above me by a master's hands,
> Who likewise engraved these words upon my tomb.

It seems that Odysseus and Argus were not the only faithful dog-master pair in Greece. As the Greek period morphs into the Roman era in the Mediterranean world, dog burials remained part of the cultural heritage. Along the north wall of a Roman-era cemetery at Yasmina, in the city of Carthage in Tunisia, another quite moving human-dog burial was discovered. Here excavations uncovered the third-century CE burial of an adolescent/young-adult female in a carefully made grave topped with cobbles and tiles, and with the skeleton of an elderly dog at the girl's feet. The dog was also buried with one of the few grave goods found in the cemetery, a glass bowl carefully placed behind its shoulder. The Yasmina dog, which probably resembled a modern Pomeranian, is an example of a toy breed. What is more remarkable about the dog is that, despite a host of physical problems including tooth loss that likely required him to eat soft foods, osteoarthritis, a dislocated hip, and spinal deformation that would have limited mobility, the dog had survived into his mid-to-late teens. He was clearly well cared for, and even death could not separate the dog from his owner. Studying the remains of dog burials, even those from thousands of years ago, often has an emotional impact on researchers. "Perhaps of all the archaeological cases for pets I can think of," says Michael MacKinnon, an archaeologist from the University of Winnipeg, "I believe the Yasmina 'sick' dog is the most poignant."

Ritual burials of dogs continued throughout Europe into the first century CE. In Sweden burial sites even contain multiple dogs in some of the more elaborate graves. One such grave, that of a warrior who died sometime in the seventh century CE, included four dogs of different types. One was an average height, two were tall and slender, and a final one was big and stocky. These dogs likely served different purposes in life; for example, the tall, slender ones seem to be sight hounds for hunting and the large stocky dog may have been a guard. Regardless, they were significant enough in the status of the warrior to be incorporated into his funerary ritual and burial.

But ancient dog burials are not limited to the Mediterranean world and northern Europe. The second-oldest dog remains excavated from a cave site in Japan, dating from the Jomon period between 8,500 and 8,000 years ago, appear to have been intentionally buried. At this location there were twenty-two dogs, the size of a modern shiba inu, interred. Carefully curled on their sides when they were buried, in a relaxed sleep-like position, they were gently arranged in death to mimic a comfortable position in life. These ancient dogs are likely the ancestors of the seven breeds of dogs eventually recorded as indigenous to Japan.

On the mainland of Asia, almost concurrently with the Jomon burials — so between 9,000 and 7,800 years ago — the oldest Chinese dog burials were also taking place. Eleven dogs were buried at Jiahu in southwestern China. A little over 1,000 years later, dog remains were found with human burials in China as well.

The practice also continued as humans migrated from the African-Eurasian contiguous landmass to new continents. In North America at the Koster site in Illinois, three domestic dog burials date to 8,500 years before the present, as early as the burials in East Asia. This means that the practice occurred relatively soon after the arrival of humans on the North American continent. One particularly rich region for dog burials is the southern tier of what is now the United States, with examples from Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi, some almost as old as those at the Koster site, dating back over 8,000 years.

By 6,600 years ago, dog burials were not just widespread in North America but were also associated with human remains. These very early human-dog connected burials occurred on the northwest coast. Here the tradition seems to continue, as people who lived in the area around the Puget Sound (Coast Salish people) buried dogs “ceremonially like humans.”

While the burials date significantly later, the practice of burying dogs continued in South America. In Peru, a number of naturally mummified dogs have been recovered, including one dating back 3,000 years. But the vast majority of dog burials thus far discovered there took place about 1,000 years ago. In 2006 archaeologists working in an ancient cemetery near the city of Ilo in southern Peru found the well-preserved remains of eighty dogs interspersed with the burials of about 2,000 people. At that point, the Chiribaya people in Peru valued their dogs enough to make sure they had snacks after death (so they placed fish bones next to their noses), and to make sure they stayed warm (so they were wrapped in carefully woven llama-wool blankets). Some of the dogs are curled on their side with their heads resting gently on pillows.

For most of the 15,000 years that humans and dogs have lived together, they have also died together and sought the afterlife in each other’s company. Granted, this was likely not a choice made by the dogs and in some, perhaps most, instances, it was not a timely death for the canines who were forced to accompany humans to the grave. But over these millennia, as humans grappled with the meaning of death, and life, many of them found that dogs contributed in important ways to an understanding, not only of this world, but of whatever world happened after death. The careful, ritual burial of these dogs provided a window into the quest for meaning in the afterlife. And this was not the end of the story.

Excerpted from “A Dog’s History of the World” by Laura Hobgood-Oster. Copyright © 2014 by Baylor University Press. Reprinted by arrangement with Baylor University Press. All rights reserved.

© 2014 by Baylor University Press, Waco, Texas 76798-7363. All Rights Reserved. No part of this excerpt may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission in writing of Baylor University Press.

Copyright © 2017 Salon Media Group, Inc. Reproduction of material from any Salon pages without written permission is strictly prohibited. SALON ® is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a trademark of Salon Media Group Inc. Associated Press articles: Copyright © 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Ancient sword is pulled from sheath after 2,300 years and it still looks lethal

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukMonday 2 Jan 2017 3:42 pm

the sword came in its original scabbard

Archaeologists have unearthed an ancient sword thought to date from 2,300 years ago – and it still looks glittering and lethal.

The sword was found in an ancient tomb in China – near the city of Xinxiang, Henan Province.

It's thought to date from somewhere between 475BC and 221BC, during the Warring States period – a violent era before the first Chinese empire became unified.

In a video put online by China Radio International, experts remove the sword from its sheath – and show off a still-sharp, glittering blade.

It's thought that the weapon will be displayed in a museum.

A 2,300-year-old sword unearthed in China

A film was made in 2011 called The Warring States about the historic battles over eight divided areas (Picture: China Lion Film)

What was the Warring States period?

The Warring States, 2011 movie credit: China Lion Film

The ‘Warring States Period’ saw a series of fierce territorial wars fought between eight states in what would become China.

The period ended with the triumph of Qin – one of the states – which then became the Qin dynasty.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Army drone that vanished on Arizona flight found in Colorado

Updated 5:12 pm, Thursday, February 9, 2017

sfgate.com

SFGATE http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Army-drone-that-vanished-on-Arizona-flight-found-10921837.php

DENVER (AP) — An Army drone that disappeared on a training flight in southern Arizona has been found about 600 miles away in Colorado, and the military is trying to figure out how it got there.

Officials at Fort Huachuca (wah-CHU'-kuh), Arizona, say a hiker found the $1.5 million Shadow drone stuck in a tree in the mountains west of Denver Thursday. It was missing a wing.

Soldiers lost contact with the drone at Fort Huachuca nine days earlier. A search failed to find it, and the Army concluded it probably crashed and disintegrated in the area.

Officials say the 450-pound drone has a 20-foot wingspan and can fly for eight or nine hours.

Soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state had gone to the Arizona post to train with the aircraft.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Assassin had a 'sexual relationship with a Russian woman'

12:05 EST, 29 December 2016 | dailymail.co.uk

The Turkish assassin of the Kremlin's envoy in Ankara had been involved in a sexual relationship with a Russian woman who could have been planted by Western secret services, according to a sensational new report.

Ambassador Andrey Karlov was gunned down in Ankara by 22-year-old police recruit Mevlut Mert Altintas who shouted 'Allahu Akbar' and 'Don't forget Aleppo' as he murdered the respected diplomat before he was shot dead.

And now there are claims in Turkish media that Altintas had a lover from Russia or another associate, who may have brainwashed him into committing the murderous act last week.

A new report has claimed that Mevlut Mert Altintas who gunned down Russian ambassador Andrey Karlov in Ankara, may have been involved in a sexual relationship with a Russian woman

A Turkish report which has been seized on by Russian media said: 'It is very important to understand who the woman is: from intelligence, FETO or mafia.

'The Russian woman could have been a staff (agent of) Western intelligence staff.'

Altintas' sister Seher Ozeroglu, believed to be in her late 20s, is reported to have said it was as if her younger brother 'was guided by someone' when he killed the ambassador.

She implied this was a shadowy man known only as 'S' who her brother met in Ankara after he left the family's provincial home.

The alleged Russian woman - whose name, age and picture have not been revealed so far - is reported to be undergoing questioning by Vladimir Putin's security services.

Altintas's sister Seher Ozeroglu,pictured, is reported to have said it was as if her younger brother 'was guided by someone' when he killed the ambassador

According to Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Today, she left Ankara long before the assassination and travelled to Moscow, where she admitted they had a relationship.

There has been no direct comment from the Kremlin, which is working with the Turkish authorities in a major investigation to understand the motives behind the death of the 62-year-old diplomat.

The newspaper also claimed she could be a Western intelligence plant, or an alleged terrorist working for a grouping called FETO which is seen as opposing Turkish president Tayyip Recep Erdogan, or have links to the mafia.

There were also claims that the 'relationship' was based on payments from the assassin to the woman, but the report also suggested Altintas could have been coaxed towards becoming a killer, knowing he would die for what he did.

Turkish media claimed the woman involved with Altintas could be a Western intelligence plant, or an alleged terrorist working for a grouping called FETO. Pictured is the Turkish policeman moments after he shot the ambassador

A Turkish report which has been seized on by Russian media said: 'It is very important to understand who the woman is: from intelligence, FETO or mafia.

'The Russian woman could have been a staff (agent of) Western intelligence staff.

'Using her sexuality she might have established a relationship with a Turkish assassin who could have directed him towards suicide.'

Yet no evidence has so far been given that this was the case.

Russia has sent an 18-strong group of representatives from the Foreign Ministry, secret services and Investigative Committee, equivalent of the FBI, to Ankara to investigate the murder.

Andrey Karlov, pictured left, just moments before he was shot dead, right, at the art gallery in Ankara by Altintas

A key question is whether - as the Turkish authorities have claimed - he is linked to so-called FETO and supporters of Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen who is accused of having orchestrated a coup that was suppressed by the Turkish authorities in July.

Altintas moved out of his flat and into a luxury hotel before gunning down the ambassador. Hotel Best is a 4-star hotel located on Ataturk Boulevard in Cankaya district of Ankara.

The 48-room hotel is described as being 'in the heart of Ankara' and all guest bedrooms 'are equipped with a private balcony, providing far-reaching views' across the city.

The killer shaved and dressed in a suit and tie before walking 150 metres to the art centre where he used his police ID to enter the premises.

A metal detector alarm went off because of his firearm, but he was waved through because of his assumed police status.

It emerged that extremist literature was found in his possession. Altintas was 'liquidated' by Turkish security forces after the shooting.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Atlanta Zoo Loses Super Bowl Bet, Names Cockroach After Tom Brady

huffingtonpost.com

You may be able to crush Atlanta's football team, but hands off one of its zoo's newest family members.

The Atlanta Zoo on Monday introduced the world to one of the city's tiniest zoo babies — a tiny Madagascar hissing cockroach named Tom Brady.

The zoo selected the name of the New England Patriots' star quarterback after losing a Super Bowl bet with Rhode Island's Rodger Williams Park Zoo.

According to tthe agreement, the losing zoo would have to name one of its babies after the winning team's quarterback.

In a Facebook video, the tiny insect — no bigger than a thumbnail — is seen sharing a tank with at least eight other cockroaches.

Fitting with the Brady last name, his family members include Mike, Carol, Greg, Peter, Bobby, Marsha, Jan, and Cindy.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Baby born with four legs and two male sex organs

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukMonday 23 Jan 2017 7:45 am

The boy was born with four legs (Picture: SWNS)

A baby has been born with four legs and two male sex organs at a hospital in India.

The baby was born at 4.23am on Saturday to parents Lalitamma and Chennabasava and doctors said it was a normal delivery.

His mother, Lalitamma, 23, described her son as ‘God’s gift to us’ saying that she was reluctant for him to be taken to another hospital for further treatment.

Baby born in India with four legs

However, after seeking advice and reassurance from her family she and her son went to a specialist facility in Ballari in the western Karnataka state.

She said she was prepared to raise her son the way he was. However, she said: ‘My first son, born three years ago, is healthy. We are poor and cannot afford expensive treatment.’

Dr Virupaksha, who helped deliver the baby, told the Times of India: I referred the family to Vijayanagara Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS).

‘I spoke to the surgeons there on Sunday, and they told me that the baby was being kept under observation. I hope the baby becomes normal.’

Lalitamma added: The doctors and members of my family advised me to take the baby to VIMS for for advanced treatment. Now, I am hoping he becomes normal.’

Dr Divakar Gaddi, at VIMS, said: ‘A team of surgeons is looking into the baby’s condition. It is a very challenging case for us.’

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Inmates barbecue human flesh sparking cannabalism fears in 10-day prison riot

metro.co.uk

Nicole Morley for Metro.co.ukTuesday 24 Jan 2017 2:50 pm

Prisoners boasted about roasting human flesh (Picture: YouTube/KabecaoOkd)

Inmates at a Brazilian jail rocked by infighting between drugs gangs have boasted about having a barbecue with human flesh.

Prisoners gloated as they showed off pieces of meat on a skewer over a bonfire and claimed they were toasting the remains of a rival.

The video, recorded as a 10-day riot gripped Alcacuz Prison in the north eastern city of Natal, where at least 26 inmates have been killed.

The bodies of some prisoners have been returned to their loved ones with their heads missing after they were decapitated.

Only 22 victims of the violence had been identified by Monday, with forensic experts still trying to determine who two heads, a forearm, an arm and a leg removed from the prison grounds belonged to.

Shocking video appears to show cannibals eating human flesh

Riot police enter the Alcacuz Penitentiary Center near Natal to regain control after a gang confrontation at the prison in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil on January 21, 2017 (Picture: Getty)
Riot police agents get into Alcacuz Penitentiary Center during a rebellion near Natal, Rio Grande do Norte state, northeastern Brazil on January 16, 2017 (Picture: Getty)
Inmates took over the prison during a 10-day riot
(Picture: YouTube/KabecaoOkd)

No footage of the inmates eating members of rival gangs has emerged, and authorities said they had no concrete evidence to confirm cannibalism had taken place.

Elite military police are expected to move into Alcacuz shortly to help jail guards take inmates back to their cells and finally restore full order.

Gender pay gap begins with pocket money as girls given less than boys by parents

Inmates took over the prison during a 10-day riot (Picture: YouTube/KabecaoOkd)

The prisoners filmed preparing their barbecue were said to belong to an Amazon drug gang called the Family of the North and a Rio de Janeiro-based drugs gang called the Red Command.

The man whose meat they claimed to be barbecuing was said to be a member of the Sao Paulo-based PCC or First Capital Command which kept the peace for years with the Red Command before their loose alliance fell apart last year and resulted in a spate of prison killings.

One of the bare-chested inmates pictured in the video, who made no attempt to hide his face, shouted out repeatedly: 'Churrasco do PCC' – Portuguese for PCC Steak.

Another prisoner, who was brandishing a machete-style knife and had several front teeth missing, said: 'This is only the beginning.'

Last week it was reported grim prison massacre snuff videos showing corpses and severed heads on the ground during a prison riot in Manaus on January 1, were being sold for the equivalent of 75p on the streets of the northern city in the state of Amazonas.

Separate footage, believed to have been compiled by prison gang members, showed them holding up human hearts in front of a camera.

Armed and defiant inmates gather on the roofs of the Alcacuz Penitentiary, near Natal, on January 19, 2017 (Picture: Getty)

About 60 inmates were killed in Manaus, sparking a deadly wave of violence that included the riots in Natal and another at a prison in Roraima state on January 6 that claimed the lives of more than 30 people.

Prisoners at Alcacuz jail, where eyewitnesses have said they saw prisoners making a bonfire out of human heads, were still on the loose between prison blocks yesterday.

The violence has been blamed on a war between drug gangs battling for control of the cocaine trade in Brazil, which is a key trafficking route to Europe.

The North Family controls a lucrative cocaine route along the Solimoes, a branch of the Amazon that flows from Colombia and Peru, the world's top two cocaine-producing nations.

For two decades, the two factions have maintained a working relationship, ensuring a steady flow of drugs and arms over Brazil's porous border. But about six months ago, the PCC began trying to muscle the Red Command out of key drug routes.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Maine man gets prison for beating homeowner with frying pan

yahoo.com

Associated PressFebruary 8, 2017

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — A Maine man is headed to prison for breaking into the home of an elderly man and beating him with a frying pan.

Kristopher Russ pleaded guilty Monday in Augusta to charges that include robbery and elevated aggravated assault. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison, with 18 to be served initially, followed by four years' probation, while the remainder is suspended.

Police say the 79-year-old homeowner, James Young, came upon the 34-year-old Russ when he walked inside his home on March 14, 2016. Russ then hit Young with a frying pan several times before making off with some money.

Young suffered serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

Russ' attorney says her client was "extremely under the influence of drugs" at the time.

Russ apologized to Young in court.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Belarus says Santa must pay tax - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 29 December 2016

Image copyright(VIKTOR DRACHEV/AFP/Getty Images)

Grandpa Frost and the Snow Maiden are smiling, for now

Belarus is marking the season of goodwill by sending Santa Claus a tax bill, it's reported.

Grandpa Frost, as he's known in parts of eastern Europe, and his granddaughter the Snow Maiden, will have to pay a flat rate like mere mortal business people if they want to go round the houses greeting children on New Year's Eve, according to the Tax Inspectorate.

It posted the announcement "Grandpa Frost and Snow Maiden also pay their taxes" on its Hrodna and Homel regional sites under a deceptively jolly logo. The good news is that the festive pair do not have to register as private businesses, keep accounts or present their receipts, but they must nonetheless pay the equivalent of 35-50 dollars in tax depending on the region before embarking on their rooftop tours.

The less cheery news is that this applies throughout the country, and a fine five times the size of the given tax bill faces anyone who fails to cough up, the Tut.by portal reports.

Inviting long-robed Grandpa Frost and the snowflake-crowned Snow Maiden to entertain children on New Year's Eve is popular in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, where Christmas is a less significant holiday than in western and central Europe. The Belarusian Grandpa Frost has the additional duty of ordering frontier guards to allow the New Year in across the border, which runs near his official residence in the Belovezha Forest, the official Belta news agency proudly reports.

Grandpa Frost and the Snow Maiden earn their fees not only by delighting the children, but also by consuming the hefty portions of seasonal food and vodka prepared by grateful parents. The tax inspectors do not say whether these need to be declared as well.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Beloved supermarket cat to be immortalized with crowdfunded statue

upi.com

By Daniel Uria | Jan. 27, 2017 at 5:12 PM

Jan. 27 (UPI) -- A group of people in a town in England have launched a crowdfunding campaign to honor a cat that once resided in a local supermarket.

The Just Giving campaign is seeking to raise about $6,000 to erect a statue honoring Brutus "The Morrisons Cat," who died earlier in January.

"He delighted children and adults alike with his cheeky 'cattitude,' investigating shopping in people's trolleys as they left the store, jumping into cars to investigate, sneaking down the pet food aisle to see what kind of offers were on, and just generally being there daily for everyone to love and fuss," Claire Owens, who started the campaign, said. "He had a gorgeous fluffy face and strutted around like he owned the place, oh and he loved the camera!"

Owens said that Brutus was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney Disease in 2013 and was put to sleep on Jan. 16 after his condition worsened.

Regulars at the supermarket in the town of Stanley and many of Brutus's more than 12,000 Facebook followers were devastated.

"We thought that a memorial to honor Brutus is only fitting, so that people can still say hello to him and have something to remember him by," she said. "Many people have expressed their wish for something to be placed in Morrisons, so this is what we are raising the money for, plus also for local animal charities."

The campaign saw a swell of support from the beginning, collecting $1,255 in the first 24 hours.

A spokesman for Morrisons told the Chester Chronicle he had been in contact with Owens about helping to honor Brutus.

"Brutus was much loved by our customers and colleagues and he will be greatly missed," he said. "We'll be meeting with Claire to plan a permanent memorial at the store so everyone can remember him."

United Press International
Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Cyclists baffled by speed bumps along cycle path

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukFriday 10 Feb 2017 8:21 am

Rue Pelletier, Montmagny, where speed bumps have been introduced to a cycle path (Picture: Canalblog.com)

Cyclists in France have started a campaign after a series of speed bumps were installed along a cycle path.

They appeared in the Montmagny suburb of northern Paris and have since been ridiculed by cyclists.

Council officials said that they were there to protect cyclists from motorists, but cyclists say it is actually putting them in more danger.

Dopey council install speed bumps on bike lane

One cyclist said: ‘It’s really weird. We can’t ride along it on the bike, so we’re forced to ride in the way of pedestrians, or otherwise on the road.’

According to Le Parisien the bumps, which are about four inches high, were installed in December because drivers went onto the cycle path because of a bus stop on the opposite side of the road.

They said that a cyclist was hit by a driver who had gone onto the red path.

Valerie Leteignier said: ‘Some cars would not wait for the bus to leave and would pass on the cycle path and the pavement.

‘My daughter, coming out of our house, found herself face-to-face with a car and has been beeped.’

Patrick Foquet, mayor of the suburb, said a new kerb would be put in place in the spring to deter drivers from going onto the cycle path.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Bill allowing 151-proof liquor causes buzz among colleges

wtvr.com

Posted 7:43 pm, January 26, 2017, by Capital News ServiceUpdated at 02:59PM, January 27, 2017

RICHMOND, Va. — College administrators remain concerned about legislation that would let the state's ABC stores sell 151-proof grain alcohol.

Linda Hancock, a member of the Virginia College Alcohol Leadership Council, said she and other education professionals fear that such liquors – which are more than 75 percent alcohol – may attract inexperienced college students who tend to pour overly strong drinks.

On Wednesday, the House of Delegates passed HB 1842, which would allow Virginians to purchase 151-proof neutral grain alcohol at their local ABC store.

Hancock is the director of the Wellness Resource Center at Virginia Commonwealth University. However, she emphasized that she was not speaking as a VCU employee.

As a clinician and campus health educator, Hancock said she is not worried about the over-30 adults who are the main consumer base for Everclear, a popular brand of grain alcohol. It comes in two varieties – 151 proof and 190 proof.

"151 is not a highly purchased item – at least, you would think it would not be. How many people are making limoncello, you know?" Hancock said.

HB 1842 would amend Virginia's existing laws, which set the cap of sellable alcohol at 101 proof in 1993. Despite their significantly stronger alcohol content, high-proof neutral grain spirits are tasteless, odorless and colorless, leading University of Virginia president Teresa Sullivan to equate the liquor to a "date rape" drug.

The Virginia College Alcohol Leadership Council was a vocal opponent of a similar bill during last year's legislative session before it was vetoed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Steven Clarke, then-director of the Campus Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center at Virginia Tech, warned of the potential side effects of allowing high potency alcohols on campuses, including "personal injury, property damage, and academic non-performance."

William and Mary President W. Taylor Reveley III agreed, calling the bill "really a bad idea."

A report commissioned by the governor last year included a Gallup poll revealing young adults' increasing preference for spirits since the 1990s, as well as research that college students tend to put excessive amounts of alcohol in drinks.

The same report, however, emphasized that there is little evidence that the ban on 151-proof products has reduced underage drinking or alcohol misuse on college campuses.

"Most of the research that's been done on grain alcohol has been done on the 191 proof, and so there's not as much research on the 151," Hancock said. "But common sense would lead you to believe that since the drink size of 151 is only seven milliliters smaller than a 191, a lot of the same issues would apply," she said. "Most of the evidence is anecdotal, but there's still concern."

HB 1842 was passed after the bill's patron, Del. Barry D. Knight, R-Virginia Beach, added a five-year sunset clause to the bill, with the condition that legislation would revert back to 101 "if issues arise."

Additionally, Virginia ABC stores will be able to regulate the sale of high-proof neutral grain spirits, meaning the ABC board could choose not to sell it in stores near college campuses. The Virginia College Alcohol Leadership Council announced plans to form a subcommittee to work with ABC regarding product distribution. The main focus for the next five years, Hancock says, is continuing to learn how to keep young alcohol drinkers safe.

“It’s really hard, because it’s odorless and tasteless, to track what’s done with it,” she said. “The data is going to be hard to collect. But at five years, we’ll be able to see what kind of measures have been installed around it and whether we think they’re protecting college students and young adults. The main thing is that we for sure need more data, state-wise, about this issue.”

Virginia and Vermont are the only two states to ban sales of 151-proof grain alcohol.

By Amy Lee with Capital News Service

Capital News Service is a flagship program of VCU’s Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students participating in the program provide state government coverage for Virginia’s community newspapers and other media outlets, under the supervision of Associate Professor Jeff South.

Online Public File • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy
• 3301 W Broad Street Richmond VA 23230
• Copyright © 2017, WTVR
• A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Beauty born without a left arm uses bionic limb for costumes

05:53 EST, 26 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Bionic beauty born without a left arm now uses her state-of-the-art prosthetic limb for elaborate costumes (and admits children compare her to a video-game character)

- Caitlin Michelle, 25, from New Jersey, was born without a forearm on her left arm
- **The condition is known as a congenital amputation**
- **In December 2015 she received the bionic limb - and now loves incorporating it into elaborate costumes**

By Sarah Mooney For Mailonline

A stunning amputee who was born without a left arm has received a bionic hand - and even uses it for cosplay.

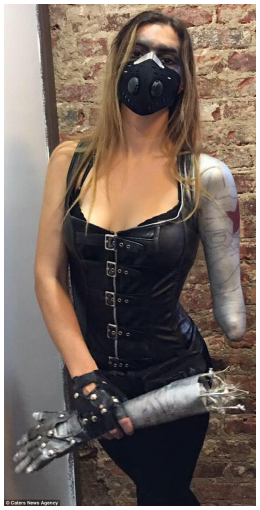
Caitlin Michelle, 25, from New Jersey, was born without a forearm on her left arm - otherwise known as congenital amputation.

From the age of four Caitlin used a standard prosthetic arm but was unable to use it for more adventurous activities.

But in December 2015, the school teacher finally received a state of the art bionic hand which is connected to existing nerves and muscles.

Scroll down for video

In December 2015, the school teacher finally received a state of the art bionic hand



Caitlin dressed up as The Winter Soldier from Captain America for a recent cosplay event

The 25-year-old says her state-of-the-art bionic limb is 'amazing'

After months of planning by a specialist prosthetics team, her new bionic limb was carefully shaped and has enabled her to finally have two functioning arms.

Caitlin has since attended cosplay conventions as her favourite superheroes and uses her bionic arm to her advantage, much to the amazement of other superhero fans.

She said: 'My new bionic arm is amazing, it came with eight different grip patterns and a wrist rotator which allows me to spin 360 degrees.

'For years I used a prosthetic arm which had little movement in it, so I was limited with what I could do.

She added: 'I was very fortunate that my insurance covered the costs, as bionic limbs can cost thousands of dollars'

Caitlin attends cosplay conventions as her favourite superheroes and uses her bionic arm to her advantage, much to the amazement of other superhero fans

'I was very fortunate that my insurance covered the costs, as bionic limbs can cost thousands of dollars.

'My new arm is really efficient, it's been such a game changer, I can use it for a full day and then I plug it in overnight, just like a phone really.

'There are sensors inside the arm which locate where my strongest muscle signals are, they then help me to navigate.

'It was also designed to fit my arm perfectly, which is great because it feels like the arm is actually a part of my body.

'I am now able to reach for things with my left arm, which I could never do before, and I love being able to pick things up so easily.

'I love cosplay and so I got in touch with a group in Manhattan who were able to create a Star Wars Stormtrooper-inspired socket, which I put on via a tube on the side.

Caitlin says: 'It not only amuses me personally but I think that joking about my limb makes other people more comfortable with it'

Caitlin can use her new bionic limb to engage in her love of adventure sports

'It not only amuses me personally but I think that joking about my limb makes other people more comfortable with it.

'My new arm has completely changed my life around and I am so grateful to finally have two working arms and hands.'

Caitlyn frequently attends superhero events and uses her bionic arm as part of the cosplay - and also states how much the children she teaches loves her arm.

She said: 'I like to see the fun side to my arm and I enjoy cosplay a lot.

'I enjoy incorporating my disability into my cosplays and poke fun at myself.

The 25-year-old says: 'My new arm has completely changed my life around and I am so grateful'

Caitlin added: 'I love to get involved in the jokes and I have a positive mind to the whole thing'

'Making costumes and dressing up as various superhero characters for conventions is so fun.

'I discovered cosplay early last year and then I made a Catwoman costume, since then it has become a hobby which I get a huge thrill out of.

'I teach kids of 11 and 12 and they are fascinated by my arm, they always compare it to video game characters.'

Caitlin stated how people react to her disability and the sounds that her new arm makes.

She said: 'The small robot sounds that my arm makes used to confuse some of the children but now they see the fun side of it, they've all got used to me wearing it.

After months of planning by a specialist prosthetics team, her new bionic limb was carefully shaped and has enabled her to finally have two functioning arms

'I love to get involved in the jokes and I have a positive mind to the whole thing.

'Some people who are unfamiliar with limb differences or prosthetics may feel awkward around me and don't really know what to say, which I understand.

'A disability like mine isn't something that people are used to seeing every day, whether in public or on television.

'I feel I'm acknowledging that I am different by drawing attention to my hand in a funny way.

'I don't want people to think that missing a limb means my life is tragic or worthy of pity.'

Comments (44)

Share what you think

The comments below have not been moderated.

fair dinkum, brisbane, Australia, about an hour ago

Far too much 'look at me'

Totally Fed Up, Edinburgh, about 3 hours ago

Lovely lass inside and out

I am a 1 percenter, Metro Area, United States, about 3 hours ago

She is hot.

pfreeworld, naperville, United Kingdom, about 4 hours ago

I love that Real Not Real shirt. Some people are just so cool!!!

jinnd, the A, United States, about 5 hours ago

She's got swag. I like her.

Alfred da Great, New Wessex, United States, about 6 hours ago

Great sense of humor. I'm impressed.

the twin mummy, liverpool, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Wow that's cool.

Gustav Holst IV, SALFORD, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Good stuff

Landofhope, England, about 7 hours ago

Just absolutly great, inspiring.....

ASVR, Glasgow, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

She looks very scary... jusy kidding i bet shes armless

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px*

!important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Entertainment & Arts

The corpse factory and the birth of fake news

17 February 2017 | Entertainment & Arts

PUNCH/NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Think fake news is a new phenomenon? Think again. Dr David Clarke from Sheffield Hallam University looks at a 100-year-old story that fooled the world.

Fake news, false stories that masquerade as real news are not new.

In the spring of 1917 some of Britain's most influential newspapers published a gruesome story that has been called "the master hoax" - and I think we finally have proof about where it came from.

Britain was at the time trying to bring China into the war on the Allied side.

In February a story appeared in the English-language North China Daily News that claimed the Kaiser's forces were "extracting glycerine out of dead soldiers".

Rumours about processing dead bodies had been in circulation since 1915 but had not been presented as facts by any official source.

'Smell of burnt limes'

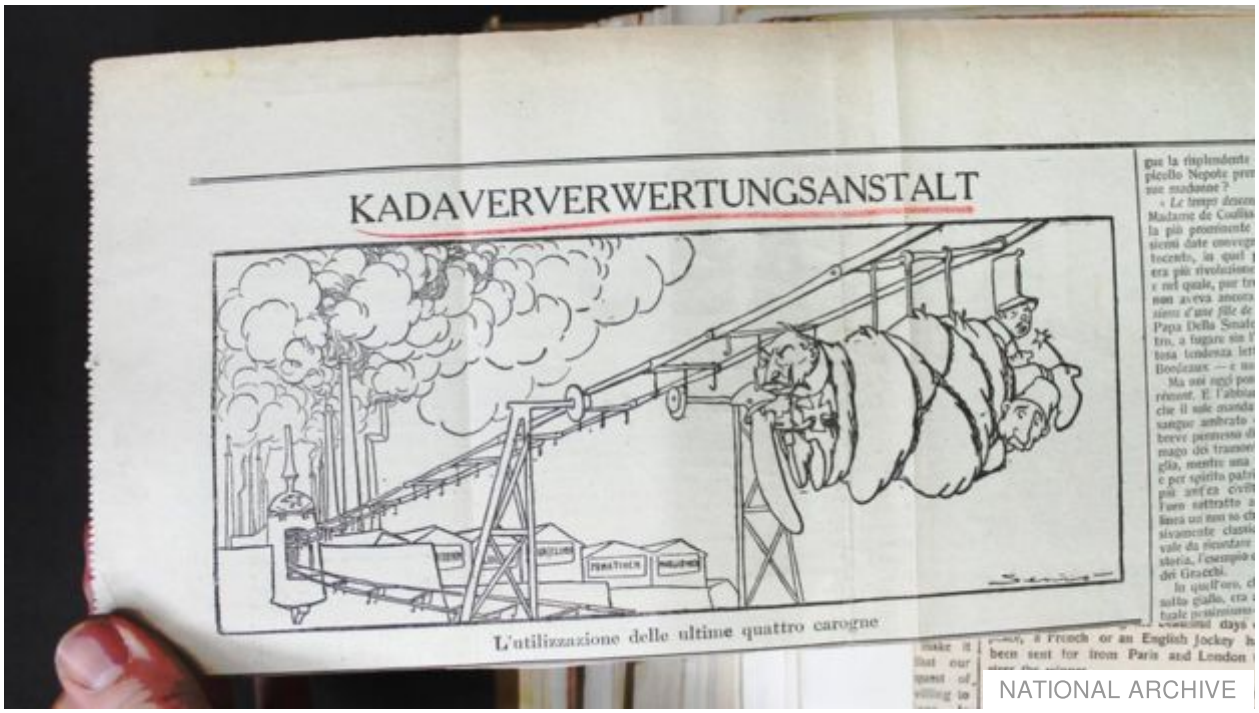
That changed in April when the Times and the Daily Mail published accounts from anonymous sources who claimed to have visited the Kadaververwertungsanstalt, or corpse-utilisation factory.

The Times ran the story under the headline Germans and their Dead, attributing the claim to two sources - a Belgian newspaper published in England and a story that originally appeared in a German newspaper, Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger on 10 April.

That German account by reporter Kal Rosner described an unpleasant smell "as if lime was being burnt" as he passed the corpse factory.

Rosner used the word "kadaver", which referred to the bodies of animals - horses and mules - not human bodies.

Later, The Times carried a longer article quoting from an unnamed Belgian source who described in grim detail how the corpses were processed.



A cartoon published soon afterwards by Punch presented the ghoulish story with the caption "cannon fodder - and after".

The German government protested loudly against these "loathsome and ridiculous" claims.

But their protests were drowned out by public expressions of horror from the Chinese ambassador. China declared war against Germany on 14 August 1917.

However, until now no one has been able to discover conclusive proof that would settle the mystery of who created the story - and who authorised its transformation from a false rumour to officially-sanctioned "fact". I believe we now can.

'Captions swapped'

It was in 1925 that Sir Austen Chamberlain admitted, in a Commons statement, there was "never any foundation" for what he called "this false report".

In the same year the Conservative MP John Charteris - who served as head of intelligence - reportedly admitted, while on a lecture tour of the US, that he had fabricated the story.

The New York Times revealed how Charteris said he had transposed captions from one of two photographs found on captured German soldiers. One showed a train taking dead horses to be rendered, the other showed a train taking dead soldiers for burial.

The photo of the horses had the word "cadaver" written upon it and Charteris reportedly said he "had the caption transposed to the picture showing the German dead, and had the photograph sent to a Chinese newspaper in Shanghai".

On his return to Britain, Charteris denied making the remarks. Since that time, no one has been able to discover the photographs or any clear documentary evidence that would prove the intelligence services connived with the press to promote the corpse factory lie.

GERMANS AND THEIR DEAD.

REVOLTING TREATMENT.

SCIENCE AND THE BARBARIAN SPIRIT.

We pass through Evergnicourt. There is a dull smell in the air, as if lime were being burnt. We are passing the great Corpse Exploitation Establishment (Kadaververwertungsanstalt) of this Army Group. The fat that is won here is turned into lubricating oils, and everything else is ground down in the bones mill into a powder, which is used for mixing with pigs' food and as manure.

In our column "Through German Eyes" yesterday we published the above callous description of a German "Corpse Exploitation Establishment" situated behind the enemy's lines north of Reims. This description was furnished by Herr Karl Rosner, special correspondent of the Berlin *Lokalanzeiger* on the Western front.

This statement corroborates a striking account of this new and horrible German industry which appeared in the *Indépendance Belge* for April 10, as extracted from *La Belgique*, of Leyden, in Holland.

This version, omitting some of the most repulsive details, is as follows:—

We have known for long that the Germans stripped their dead behind the firing line, fastened them into bundles of three or four bodies with iron wire, and

THE HUNS' CORPSE FACTORY. 18/6/17

FACSIMILE OF GERMAN REPORT.

GHOULS' ADMISSION.

UNIVERSAL HORROR.

Universal horror has been aroused by the revelations in *The Daily Mail* of Monday and yesterday of the German admission that factories are run for extracting oils, fats, and pig-food from the bodies of the German private soldiers killed in battle.

Such a callous admission in a German newspaper is so opposed to humane instincts that people here, who do not yet know the Hun can scarcely credit it. We reproduce below the passage from the Berlin *Local-Advertiser* (Anzeiger) of April 10. It occurs in an article headed as follows:

THE KAISER'S GHOULS.

MORE HORRORS OF THE TRADE IN THE DEAD.

CANNIBALISM.

The "Daily Express" is able to publish to-day some further details of the Germans' systematic desecration of their dead. Reference was made to this ghoulish work in the "Daily Express" of March 2.

THE "FAT FARM."

From a Special Correspondent.

AMSTERDAM, April 19.

The Somme fighting last year brought an immense harvest to the Corpse Utilisation Works, and that was why, after that battlefield had come to be known among Germans as the "Graveyard," German soldiers began to call it the "Fat Farm."

Some people [illegible] there is only [illegible] damnable wor[illegible]

NATIONAL ARCHIVE

But I have found what I believe to be one of the photographs mentioned by Charteris in a collection of Foreign Office files at The National Archives.

The black and white image, dated 17 September 1917, clearly shows bodies of German soldiers, tied in bundles, resting on a train behind the front line just as Charteris had described in 1925.

The covering letter, from a military intelligence officer at Whitehall, is addressed to the government's Director of Information, Lt Col John Buchan, author of The 39 Steps. The letter from MI7, the military's propaganda unit, offers the War Office "a photograph of Kadavers, forwarded by General Charteris for propaganda purposes".

Lies have consequences

In 1917 MI7 employed 13 officers and 25 paid writers, some whom moonlighted as "special correspondents" for national newspapers. One of their most talented agents was Major Hugh

Pollard who combined his work in the propaganda department with the role of special correspondent for the Daily Express.

After the war Pollard confessed his role in spreading the corpse factory lie to his cousin, Ivor Montague.

Writing in 1970, Montague recalled "we laughed at his cleverness when he told us how his department had launched the account of the German corpse factories and of how the Hun was using the myriads of trench-war casualties for making soap and margarine."

But lies have consequences. During the 1930s the corpse factory lie was used by the Nazis as proof of British lies during the Great War.

Historians Joachim Neander and Randal Marlin remind us how these false stories "encouraged later disbelief when early reports circulated about the Holocaust under Hitler".

Share this story About sharing

More on this story

Fake news: Too important to ignore
16 January 2017

How do fake news sites make money?
9 February 2017

Fake news: This is a war on 'alternative media'
30 January 2017

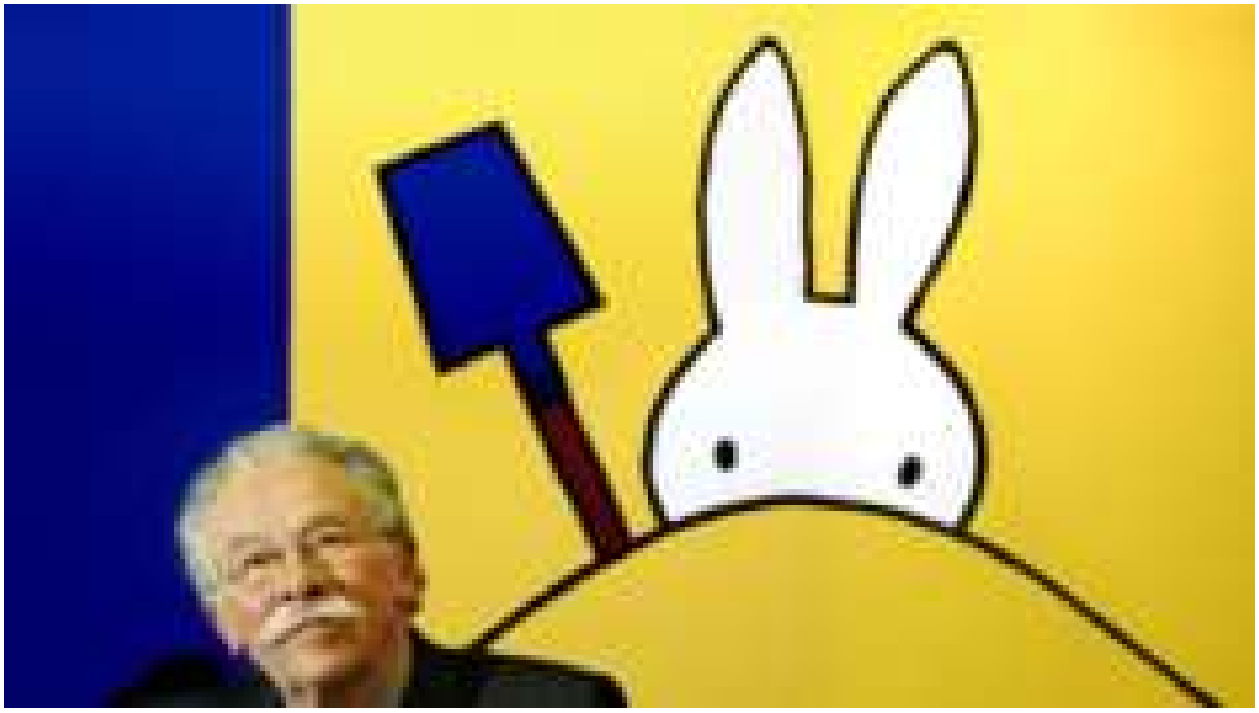
Entertainment & Arts

What's up for best foreign language film?

18 February 2017 | Entertainment & Arts

Only four women have directed a $100m film - the fifth will direct Mulan

16 February 2017 | Entertainment & Arts



Miffy the rabbit creator dies aged 89

17 February 2017 | Entertainment & Arts

Top Stories

North Korean arrested over Kim killing
The man - the fourth person to be held - is identified by Malaysian police as Ri Jong Chol, aged 46.
2 hours ago

'Weather bomb' storm stuns California
7 minutes ago

Crystal caves hold long-dormant life
27 minutes ago

Features

Bizarre 'sea serpent' than can 'predict earthquakes' washes up on beach

express.co.uk

express_logo

Bizarre 'sea serpent' than can 'predict earthquakes' washes up on beach

THIS bizarre fish - believed to "predict earthquakes" and have given rise to the legend of sea serpents - was washed up on a beach before mysteriously disappearing.

By Jon Austin
PUBLISHED:12:31, Thu, Apr 30, 2015 | UPDATED: 13:22, Thu, Apr 30, 2015

YouTube•SEDDAQUARIUM

NZMarineStudiesCentre

An oarfish filmed swimming in shallow waters

The head of the bizarre fish found dead on the beach

The usually deep sea dwelling oarfish, which can reach eight metres in length and have been known to bite their own tails off, was found dead by a stunned wildlife expert, who had never seen such a sight.

It washed up at the Otago Harbour, near Dunedin, on New Zealand's South Island.

David Agnew, of the local Department of Conversation, said: "It was really fresh, it had just washed up on the night tide and looking at it, it was a pretty weird looking creature. I have never seen such a fish in 20 years of living here.

"It didn't have scales like other fish, it had smooth skin, like tinfoil, and if you rubbed it the silver would come off."

The New Zealand Marine Studies Centre and Aquarium posted on Facebook: "Healthy oarfish are known to wash up on beaches and are sometimes found near the water surface – so may be the origin of some 'sea monster' myths.

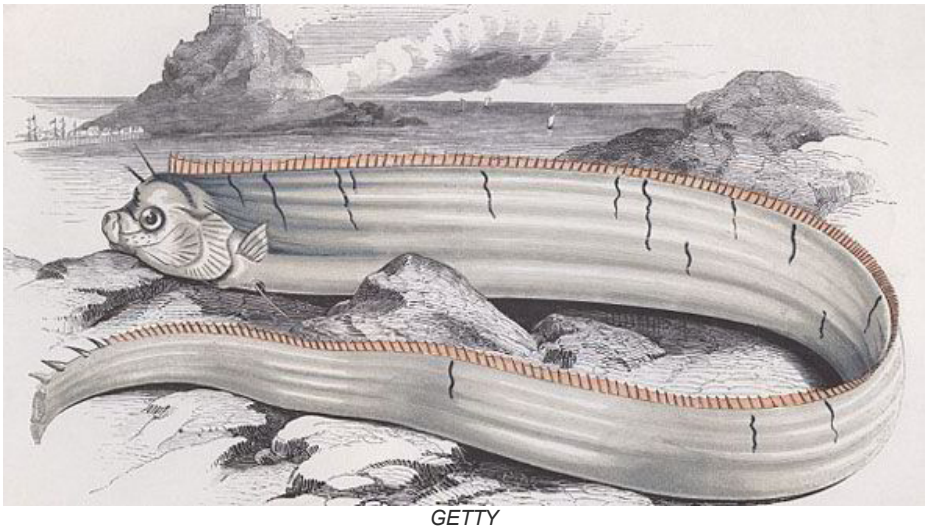
The oarfish is believed to have given rise to the sea monster legend

The size of the fish is seen when compared to a man

An oarfish swims up to a rubber dinghy in YouTube footage

> It had just washed up on the night tide and looking at it, it was a pretty weird looking creature. I have never seen such a fish in 20 years of living here.
>
> David Agnew, local Department of Conversation

"Specimens larger than 1.5 metres are known to shorten their length by biting off their tail."



GETTY

Mysteriosuly, the creature was gone from the beach the next day, either washed back out to sea, or taken by someone.

Officials urged for it not to be eaten as it was unclear how it died and the fish is not believed to taste good.

According to ancient Japanese mythology, an oarfish being washed up is a sign of an impending earthquake.

This belief became further entrenched when 20 of the species beached themselves before the nation's disastrous 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

NZMarineStudiesCentre

YouTubeSheddAquarium

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

'Black widow' imprisoned for ordering hit on Gucci heir will receive $1.47M a year from his estate

NICK SQUIRES, THE TELEGRAPH | February 10, 2017 | Last Updated: Feb 11 3:03 PM ET
More from The Telegraph

Patrizia Reggiani(L), 50, ex-wife of slain Italian fashion mogul Maurizio Gucci, exits court 03 November 1998 in Milan after she was sentenced to 29 years in jail for plotting his murder. The person at right is unidentified. AFP PHOTO

ROME – An Italian socialite nicknamed "the black widow" for ordering the murder of her ex-husband, an heir to the Gucci fashion empire, is entitled to receive $1.47 million a year from his estate, a court has ruled.

Patrizia Reggiani was jailed in 1998 after being found guilty of paying a hit man the lire equivalent of $415,000 to murder her 46-year-old ex-husband Maurizio Gucci, the multi-millionaire heir to the fashion business.

He had been gunned down three years earlier in the foyer of his office in Milan as he arrived for work.

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Dubbed the Black Widow, Patrizia Reggiani (R), former wife of millionaire fashion king Maurizio Gucci, sits in court beside her lawyer, Andrea Fares, in Milan 02 June. Reggiani, accused of ordering the murder of Gucci, was in court for the first time since the trial began, to hear a testimony given to the court that she had paid for her ex-husband's murder. AFP PHOTO EPA/ANSA-DANIEL DAL ZENNARO

She was said to be jealous of a younger woman whom he intended to marry and angry about his management of the $170 million he had accrued after selling the family business in 1993 to a Bahrain-based investment group, Investcorp.

After a trial that captivated Italy, she was found guilty of commissioning the hit and sentenced to 29 years in jail, which was reduced on appeal to 26 years.

For the previous two years, she has been allowed out on day release to work at a costume jewellery business in Milan, and was photographed wandering around some of the city's smartest boutiques with a blue and yellow macaw on her shoulder.

She was finally released from custody in October last year, having served 18 years of the sentence, with time taken off for good behaviour.

I would rather weep in a Rolls-Royce than be happy on a bicycle

An appeals court in Milan has ruled that despite ordering her husband's killing, the 67-year-old is entitled to a huge annual stipend because of an agreement that Gucci signed in 1993, two years before he was murdered.

She is also entitled to back payments from her time behind bars, which would amount to more than $26 million.

The money is to come from her ex-husband's estate, now managed by their daughters, Allegra and Alessandra Gucci, the court ruled.

Under the accord, signed in St, Moritz, Switzerland, Gucci, who was the grandson of Guccio Gucci, the founder of the brand, agreed to pay his ex-wife an allowance of $1.5 million a year for the rest of her life.

The couple had divorced in 1985.

Related

81-year-old Nova Scotia 'Black Widow ' must report romantic relationships under peace bond

Nova Scotia prosecutors drop charges against 81-year-old internet 'Black Widow'

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Nova Scotia 'Black Widow' arrested for using the internet at the library — a breach of parole

The money will allow the socialite to resume her big-spending ways. Her extravagant tastes included spending $15,000 a month on orchids, and she once famously said: "I would rather weep in a Rolls-Royce than be happy on a bicycle."

In its judgment, the court of appeal wrote: "The criminal act carried out by Patrizia Reggiani has nothing to do with the accord with Maurizio Gucci. It is irrelevant. Any other opinion belongs to the moral, rather than the strictly judicial, sphere."

Reggiani's daughters, who live in Switzerland, are expected to contest the decision in Italy's Supreme Court.

LATEST WORLD VIDEOS

Trump: US Stands Behind Japan '100 Percent'

Today in History for February 12th

Trump: US Stands Behind Japan '100 Percent'

Anti-Abortion Activists Meet Counter-Protesters

Find National Post on Facebook

Topics: **News**, **World**, **Alessandra Gucci**, **Guccio Gucci**, **Maurizio Gucci**, **Milan**

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Blackjack player pleads guilty to leaving casino to rob bank

yahoo.com

AP CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia man has admitted to leaving a casino to rob a bank before returning to continue gambling.

The Charleston Gazette-Mail reports (http://bit.ly/2jsIAx8) 52-year-old Kerry Johnson of Charleston pleaded guilty Wednesday to a robbery charge.

Johnson had been at the Mardi Gras Casino in Nitro for hours Aug. 2 when he put down a $25 chip to hold his spot. Prosecutors said Johnson then drove 13 miles to a Charleston bank and gave tellers a note saying he had a bomb and a weapon and robbed it.

Johnson then returned to the blackjack table and kept gambling.

Johnson told a judge he'd taken quite a few drugs that day, but recognized himself after seeing video from the bank.

He faces five to 18 years in prison when sentenced in March.

___

Information from: The Charleston Gazette-Mail, http://wvgazettemail.com.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Blow-up sex doll sparks murder alert after reports of 'body' floating in river

By Jim Hardy 09:27, 16 JAN 2017 Updated 09:59, 16 JAN 2017 News mirror.co.uk

The inflatable doll was clothed, leading witnesses fear to there was a dead woman in the River Medway at Maidstone, Kent

It was spotted floating in the River Medway (Photo: Twitter / @djdaziedaz) Onlookers feared it was a body (Photo: Twitter / @djdaziedaz) (Photo: Getty)

A blow up sex doll has sparked a murder alert after it was spotted floating in a river yesterday.

The inflatable doll was clothed, leading witnesses to fear there was a dead woman in the River Medway at Maidstone, Kent.

Tom Maybury, 21, who lives locally, said "Some people out for a ramble saw her first and were about to dial 999 for the Murder Squad.

"She was floating face-up between a moored boat and the river bank and looked for all the world like a body.

"She was dead sexy looking, with a shapely figure and pouting lips.

"We reckon some lads out on the town had dumped her in the river for a spot of fun.

"She was life-size and it really looked like a body."

It comes after news s ex robots will soon be for sale across the world.

And some experts predict that making love to life-like droids will become the norm in just a few years.

As erotic technology improves, the dolls will have pulses, lifelike warm skin and will mimic human dimensions and personality traits.

But will it ever be possible to marry one?

That may sound a ridiculous question, but academics are giving serious thought to the matter of robot rights.

Many renowned academics predict it is only a matter of decades before robots will be sophisticated enough to hold conversations, have emotions and make decisions for themselves.

Sex toy of the future is two lollipops called Teletongue that lets you deliver pleasure to partner via the internet

So what about a human-robot wedding? This was the subject of a lecture by Dr David Levy at the recent Love and Sex with Robots congress at Goldsmiths, University of London.

The artificial intelligence expert said: "A person with one artificial limb is still a person, as is someone with two, three or four.

"Nor is a person with an artificial heart any less human. So what about someone with a wholly artificial brain?

Study reveals who is most likely to have sex with a ROBOT - and it's exactly who you'd expect

"Jurisprudence could establish some machines as having the rights of an autonomous person."

Dr Levy predicts human-robot marriage will eventually become legal.

He likened it to the issue of interracial marriage in America and the gay marriage debate currently taking place across the globe.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Blue Peter's Millennium time capsule dug up by accident and smashed to pieces metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.ukThursday 2 Feb 2017 1:07 pm

It wasn't meant to be dug up until 2050 (Picture: PA)

Builders accidentally dug up Blue Peter's Millennium time capsule and then smashed it apart, thinking they might have struck gold.

They were laying cables at the 02 Arena in Greenwich (formerly named the Millennium Dome), where the capsule was buried during its construction in 1998.

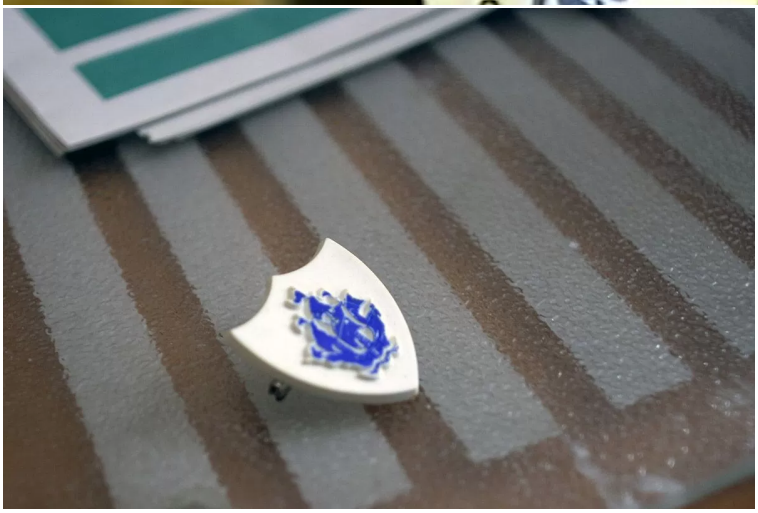
It was meant to lie in the ground until 2050, when it would be dug up to reveal what life was like in the 1990s (i.e. Tamagotchi, Princess Diana and the Spice Girls).

But it surfaced earlier than planned when the builders came across it 15ft under the ground.

'Nobody realised it was the Blue Peter capsule,' a source told The Sun.

'The boys thought they'd struck gold. They were going at it with anything they could find — hammers, shovels, the lot.'

Blue Peter bury their 1998 time capsulehttp://metro.co.uk/video/1404719



But when they opened it, they were disappointed to find mementos which meant a lot to Blue Peter viewers in the last century, including an asthma inhaler, Tellytubby dolls and a France '98 football.

Blue Peter presenter Katy Hill had claimed the capsule was 'hidden very safely underneath one of Britain's newest landmarks, the Millennium Dome'.

But it was not hidden safely enough, it seems.

'At one point a bloke in a forklift squished it with the machine's teeth,' the source told the Sun.

It was then dumped in a skip before someone realised that it could be important, and handed it to staff at the arena in East London.

A spokesman for the BBC said: ‘We are looking forward to sharing these memories with viewers and making new ones as we rebury the capsule until 2050.’

inhaler

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

"Alien" Bodies and Body Parts Allegedly Uncovered in Peru (Again)

jasoncolavito.com

1/3/2017

15 Comments

Many of you will likely have seen that tour guide and fringe history advocate Brien Foerster posted information recently about the discovery of an alleged “alien” hand on his *Hidden Inca Tours* website. He discussed the three-fingered anomaly briefly, and then concluded with an advertisement for his own tours of the Andes. The evidence provided was a bit underwhelming, and my first instinct would be to suspect a hoax along the lines of the taxidermy “demon-fairy” that fooled L. A. Marzulli last year.

The supposed alien hand is roughly twice as long as a human hand and has only three fingers, covered in what seems to be a brittle white clay, as though sculpted. Foerster admits that it would be “easy” to call the hand a “fake,” but he says not to make such a hasty judgment because the hand was shown to him personally in Cuzco by a “local,” along with what he said was a miniature mummified elongated skull. Foerster said that unnamed physicians x-rayed the “skull” and determined that it was made of skin and bone and was not human. Foerster declined to share the x-ray of the skull, and instead claimed it would be DNA tested this year. An accompanying YouTube video shows the skull being x-rayed, and it does appear to have internal features consistent with a skull (if it is actually the same object being x-rayed). However, contrary to Foerster’s claims that the skull was “clearly was not a human,” the medical professional (we assume from the lab coat) examining the x-ray said that the skull is indeed human. Based on its size, it might be a mummified fetus, like other known examples from the region.

Picture

Mummified fetus of Peru in a nineteenth century illustration.

Foerster provided an x-ray of the “alien” hand, which reveals a series of bones in roughly the same anatomical position as a human hand, but with more bones per finger (5 or 6 vs. 3 for a human finger). These bones differ from their human counterparts in unexpected ways. First, the number of bones per finger differs. Second, unlike human bones, the bones in each finger are also different in shape and size. A human hand is much more balanced. The bones in the “palm” of the hand seem to be a jumbled array that to my inexpert eye don’t all seem to go together. In short, it looks like what you would expect from a hoax assembled from spare parts. That said, since I am not an anatomist, I can’t exclude the possibility that we are looking at an animal limb from a species I’m not familiar with.

The same unnamed physicians also declared this hand to be made of skin and bone, and of unknown anatomy.

Foerster reported that the skull and hand were found in a “**secret location, in a tunnel in the southern desert of Peru,” and their owner does not wish to sell them. Foerster, of course, chose not to question this claim or to seek out the location of their discovery. The accompanying videos feature the current owner telling the story of their discovery, which**

sounds like a fairy tale. According to him, two friends of his were walking in the desert when they found a small door. Opening it, they found two sarcophagi, of which they managed to take only blurry photos in what seems to be forced perspective to make them look larger. The owner also displays a third object, supposedly a very tiny alien corpse, but which looks even more fake than the other two by dint of being whole. He says that the creature cannot be a mammal because it lacks "mammary glands."

It is not particularly encouraging that the owner says that the alien hand is proof that the Giants existed, as told in the Bible and then quotes Genesis 6:4. (In a later video, he denied that the hand belongs to a Nephilim after doubling down on the ancient astronaut theory.) It is even less encouraging that the owner is able to pick up and manipulate the supposedly ancient and brittle objects as though they were toys. The latest video, posted this morning, uses clips from the History Channel's *Ancient Aliens* to suggest that these objects will cause all of civilization and religion to "crumble" before their paradigm-busting power. He concluded his latest video by stating that he will do media interviews about the objects, but only if they are the cover story for a magazine, and he will invite scientific testing, provided that the researchers pay for all the expenses.

15 Comments

Uncle Ron
1/3/2017 11:27:53 am

These hucksters want to guard their "finds" in order to gain, through that control, some measure of fame & fortune. Yet if they truly believed the object was real, and they allowed it to be scrutinized by real scientists, they would have that fame & fortune as the discoverer.

XYZ
1/4/2017 08:06:46 am

There are THOSE who wish the Bible, full of fringe bunkum nonsense, to be embraced by Rational Skepticism.

How innocent that is...

Jim
1/3/2017 11:45:27 am

As we say here in Canada "Nice touque eh ?"

DaveR
1/3/2017 12:05:00 pm

They wonder why nobody believes them as they weave their fanciful stories regarding their so called discoveries. Despite his efforts to get people to not reject this latest discovery as a hoax, Foerster ignores how many, if not all, hoaxes start in the same manner.

"I was walking in the woods and found a hole carved into a stone...therefore Vikings!"

"I was digging by a tree and found this stone with runic carvings...therefore Vikings!"

"I was digging in my field and found a giant...therefore the bible is real!"

"I was driving on my ranch and found some scraps of foil and strange bits of metal strewn about...therefore Aliens!"

Andy Whiye
1/3/2017 12:11:33 pm

The fingers remind me of whale/porpoise flipper bones: long with many phalanges. The wrist looks like nonsense. Are there metal staples in it?

Jason Colavito
1/3/2017 12:25:47 pm

The metal pieces are currently exposed on the outside, but one seems to be wrapped around a bone. Without seeing the object in person, it's hard to tell.

Mike Morgan
1/4/2017 01:23:50 am

Send the photos to the XplrR duo, they know giant bones in photos when they see them.

1/3/2017 12:35:42 pm

Nice fake movie props. Ha.

Jim
1/3/2017 12:49:17 pm

Heck,, they might even be real movie props !

Bob Jase
1/3/2017 02:56:14 pm

"This finding happened in approximately January of 2016"

So December 2015-ish or February 2016-ish were too imprecise?

Sorry but I quit right there, its too early in the year for this much stupid.

Only Me
1/3/2017 05:16:34 pm

Well, the hand can't belong to a giant. Most of the claims say giants had six fingers, not three.

I also notice the lack of an opposable thumb. If the hand belonged to an alien, I'd be interested to know how such aliens were able to obtain a superior level of technology with less developed hands.

Shane Sullivan
1/3/2017 05:56:05 pm

They would probably say the same about us, with our measly three bones per finger.

killbuck

1/3/2017 09:54:29 pm

What is with the sunglasses and the stunning knit toque? Perhaps he is recording this between runs on the slopes or is this a disguise to avoid detection from the academia death squads who will certainly swoop in to suppress this already revealed info. And why are the academia death squads always too late to prevent these revelations? Or to cover them up? Or to silence the truth warriors? Gads, they are obviously totally incompetent.

Jim
1/3/2017 10:10:22 pm

I'm thinking either Peruvian Mafia, or the touque is to hide his elongated skull.

DaveR
1/4/2017 10:35:19 am

I'm going with the elongated skull because he's obviously working to ease the alien reveal and minimize social disruptions when we all learn the truth.

© 2010-2017 Jason Colavito. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Bones not Prohibition bootlegger's as mystery endures

providencejournal.com

Posted Jan 4, 2017 at 7:01 PM Updated Jan 4, 2017 at 7:01 PM

The 84-year-old mystery of what happened to Prohibition bootlegger Danny Walsh remains firmly intact. Turns out those were not his bones unearthed along Matunuck School House Road in South Kingstown last month, says state archaeologist Timothy Ives.

SOUTH KINGSTOWN - The 84-year-old mystery of what happened to Prohibition bootlegger Danny Walsh remains firmly intact.

Turns out those were not his bones unearthed along Matunuck School House Road last month, says state archaeologist Timothy Ives.

It didn't take much deciphering: Authorities actually counted among the two dozen recovered bones, two human skulls - and three jaw bones. And coffin hardware that could date back to the mid-1800s, says Ives.

Authorities now believe that the home builder setting foundations on property once belonging to the legendary Walsh accidentally disturbed an unmarked, 19th-century grave plot, says Ives.

The state has now contracted with a private archaeology company to help identify who might have been buried there.

"I'm as disappointed as anyone else," says Ives. When speculation spread last month that the fate of Danny Walsh might finally have been learned, "I was very excited to say the least."

Walsh was one of the East Coast's most famous rum-runners during the 1920s. His exploits were often chronicled in newspapers, whether it was his purchase of another estate or the infamous incident of December 1929, when one of his liquor-smuggling speedboats, called "The Black Duck," came under fire by a Coast Guard gunship off the coast of Newport.

The gunfire killed three local men, smugglers, which sparked outrage from church pulpits to the State House and led to passage of a state vote to repeal Prohibition.

Walsh was last seen on Feb. 2, 1933, having dinner with six associates at the Bank CafÃ© in Pawtuxet Village.

Sources at the time told The Providence Journal that some "Chicago interests" might have staged Walsh's disappearance, upset that he was encroaching on their territory in Western Massachusetts.

The Journal's lead front-page story of Feb. 11, 1933, reported that Walsh might have been kidnapped for a $40,000 ransom. His family members visited a Boston hotel to pay off the ransom but Walsh was never released.

Ives said that when news broke last month of bones found on what was once a horse farm owned by Walsh he went to the state medical examiner's office to inquire. State law gives him an advisory role if it appears an old cemetery has been disturbed.

Ives said the bones lay on a gurney, each one individually bagged and tagged by state police investigators. "They looked like human bones that had deteriorated but not completely fallen apart. All the large elements were represented."

"One of the jaw bones had no teeth and had completely healed over, so it was probably someone elderly who had lost their teeth - certainly not a 36-year-old rum-runner."

A spot on one leg bone appeared stained as if it had been in contact with a coffin's iron nail.

"We have thousands of family [grave] plots across Rhode Island like this and this actually isn't a very unusual situation," says Ives.

Mixed with the human bones were a few bones of cattle and sheep "that had butcher marks on them" - marks left by a hand saw. Ives speculated the animal bones were likely dumped in the vicinity of the graveyard and unearthed by the same heavy equipment that had exposed the cemetery.

The state medical examiner's office has hired the Public Archaeology Laboratory, in Pawtucket, to try to determine who might have been buried on the site beside the St. James Chapel.

Joseph N. Waller Jr., a senior archaeologist with PAL, says investigators did find a flat field stone which might have served at one time as a burial marker.

What often happens, says Ives, is those stones fall over "and no one notices them again."

-tmooney@providencejournal.com

(401) 277-7359

© Copyright 2006-2017 GateHouse Media, LLC. Some rights reserved • GateHouse News

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted. providencejournal.com ~ 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902 ~

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The Boston Yeti is back and was on the loose in a local doughnut shop

By Kristi Palma 12:19 PM

The snow is falling in Boston, which means the Boston Yeti is at it again.

Boston Yeti 2015
@BostonYeti2015

Follow

I've made the call! Tomorrow is a #snowday! Right, @marty_walsh? @steveannear @MarcNBCBoston #BOSnow #blizzard #bostonWeather #bostonyeti

7:13 PM - 8 Feb 2017

39 103

The famous furry creature who's become synonymous with Boston snowstorms spent Thursday morning's nor'easter amidst both snowflakes and doughnuts.

The Yeti stopped into Somerville's Union Square Donuts, where he spent time with customers and took a trip to the kitchen.

Union Square Donuts
@UnionSqDonuts

Follow

Swing by the somerville shop for some pre-blizzard donuts with @BostonYeti2015

4:48 AM - 9 Feb 2017

18 63

Boston Yeti 2015
@BostonYeti2015

Follow

Donuts and snowstorms go so well together! @UnionSqDonuts @BostInno @BostonTweet #bosnow #snowday #snowstorm2017 #bostonyeti

8:02 AM - 9 Feb 2017

18 50

Gary Vogel
@GVogel18

Follow

My first yeti selfie!! @BostonYeti2015 @UnionSqDonuts
4:46 AM - 9 Feb 2017 · Somerville, MA

4 32

In December 2015, the Boston Yeti revealed himself to be Somerville resident John Campopiano in an interview with *The Improper Bostonian*. Bostonians seem *really* happy he's back for another winter:

kara wilmarth
@karaw15

Follow

Yesssssss!!!!! #bringit #bostonyeti twitter.com/bostonyeti2015…

5:34 PM - 8 Feb 2017

2

Katie Matt
@katematt

Follow

Ladies and gentlemen, after a 1 year weather hiatus @BostonYeti2015 is back!!!

2:03 AM - 9 Feb 2017

5 7

Union Square Donuts closed at noon Thursday due to the weather.

However, it seems the Boston Yeti is still out there in the snow.

TOPICS: Local News How to Boston Food Weather

Want to see what readers are saying about our stories?
Check out the conversations on Boston.com's Facebook Page

Tips? Corrections? Feedback? Email us at tips@boston.com

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

95% Of People Cannot Pass This Illusions Test
My Daily Viral

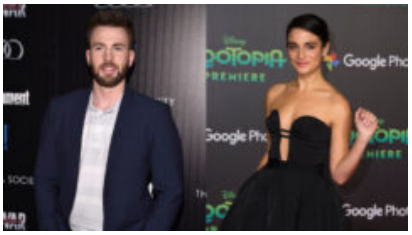
Don't Cook and Google--Blue Apron Teaches You to Prepare Meals
Blue Apron

How to Choose a Formula That's Best for Your Baby.
Life As Mama | Parent's Choice

Single and Over 50 in Los Angeles? See Pics!
Ourtime.com

The Site All Women Just Love, See Why
Tophatter

Here's Why Everyone's Obsessed With These Socks
Cup of Jo for Bombas Socks



CELEBS

Chris Evans and Jenny Slate's relationship is reportedly over
February 9, 2017 | 1:03 PM

EVENTS

Watch the Boston Common snowball fight live
February 9, 2017 | 12:33 PM

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Edelman hung backstage at the Red Hot Chili Peppers' Boston concert
February 9, 2017 | 11:02 AM

EVENTS

A massive snowball fight is about to take place on the Common
February 9, 2017 | 10:24 AM

LOVE LETTERS

He won't forgive me
February 9, 2017 | 8:57 AM

LOVE LETTERS

Love Letters chat
February 9, 2017 | 7:53 AM

EVENTS

10 things to do in Boston this Valentine's Day weekend
February 9, 2017 | 5:00 AM

RESTAURANTS

16 romantic restaurants that still have Valentine's Day reservations

February 8, 2017 | 5:19 PM

HEALTH

How you can work out with Gisele's trainer this weekend

February 8, 2017 | 2:46 PM

EVENTS

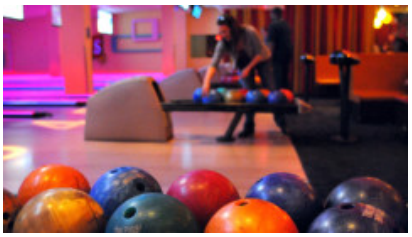
Party pics: Big Night and the Ball of Enchantment

February 8, 2017 | 1:22 PM

TV

'They have to stop blaming people,' Walsh says of Trump administration

February 8, 2017 | 10:02 AM



DATING, SEX + RELATIONSHIPS

A dating expert picks the 3 best spots for a first date

February 8, 2017 | 9:18 AM

LOVE LETTERS

She was already seeing someone else

February 8, 2017 | 9:03 AM

RESTAURANTS

Sip cocktails inside an 'igloo' at this Seaport rooftop bar

February 8, 2017 | 7:41 AM

RESTAURANTS

These are the most popular new bars and restaurants in Boston

February 8, 2017 | 5:00 AM

TV

'Battlestar Galactica' star Richard Hatch dies at 71

February 7, 2017 | 10:56 PM

MUSIC

Queen Latifah, Ben Folds headline Boston Pops' spring season

February 7, 2017 | 7:00 PM

EVENTS

Race through Fenway Park in your skivvies at Cupid's Undie Run

February 7, 2017 | 3:32 PM

ENTERTAINMENT

Matt Damon dressed as Tom Brady and snuck onto Jimmy Kimmel's show

February 7, 2017 | 9:57 AM

POLITICS

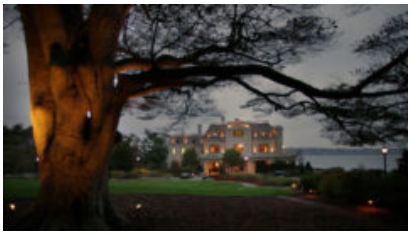
Rosie O'Donnell: 'Available' to play Steve Bannon on SNL

February 7, 2017 | 9:40 AM

LOVE LETTERS

Should I ask him out for lunch?

February 7, 2017 | 9:01 AM



TRAVEL

These 3 New England hotels are super romantic, according to TripAdvisor

February 7, 2017 | 5:00 AM

TRAVEL

5 new hotels under development in downtown Providence

February 6, 2017 | 10:48 AM

MUSIC

Fresh off the Super Bowl halftime show, Lady Gaga is coming to Fenway

February 6, 2017 | 9:20 AM

SUPER BOWL LI

Watch the stars of 'Hamilton' add 'sisterhood' to 'America the Beautiful' at Super Bowl 51

February 6, 2017 | 9:08 AM

LOVE LETTERS

How do I stop internet sleuthing?

February 6, 2017 | 8:59 AM

SUPER BOWL LI

Taylor Swift's pre-Super Bowl show might be her only in 2017

February 5, 2017 | 5:55 AM

ENTERTAINMENT

Ryan Reynolds: Hasty Pudding 2017 Man of the Year

February 4, 2017 | 12:08 PM

Brain tumor triggers visions of Virgin Mary & hyper-religiosity for Spanish woman

rt.com

Published time: 17 Feb, 2017 16:03Edited time: 17 Feb, 2017 16:33

A Spanish woman suddenly became obsessed with religion and had visions of the Virgin Mary as the direct result of an aggressive brain tumor, a report by her medical team has revealed.

The 60-year-old woman from Murcia, southern Spain, had religious apparitions over a two-month period before doctors performed an MRI scan, which revealed she had been suffering from brain cancer.

As a result of her condition, she began to suffer from hyper-religiosity, causing her to believe she was *“seeing, feeling, and conversing with the Virgin Mary,”* her medical team said in a report published in the journal Neurocase.

"She was not a woman given to exaltation, suggestion, or repeated obsessions, these characteristics were in stark contrast to the fact that in the space of a very short time, she had developed a growing interest in the Bible and other sacred writings and spent the hours of the day reciting endless religious litanies," the team from the Hospital General Universitario Morales Meseguer, said.

Linking the bizarre behavioral changes to her illness, the researchers concluded that *"it is clear that the religious experience represented a fracture"* from her behavior prior to diagnosis.

“It was not preceded by a gradual change in her thinking and acting, nor was there any kind of trigger or reason [for the behavior change] except for the disease, and hence, it can be considered a clearly pathological experience,” the report said.

The woman was treated with chemotherapy and also prescribed anti-psychotic drugs during a five-week period, over which the apparitions ceased, she passed away from her condition eight months later.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Britain battles Russia to be crowned winner of world's best CAT

By Nick Harding 22:06, 31 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Mowgleaves Stonehenge, is a young Anglo-American upstart from London, and his competitor is Rumfold Such a Flirt Shu-Ko, the pride of Moscow

Mowgleaves Stonhenge is the cat from London

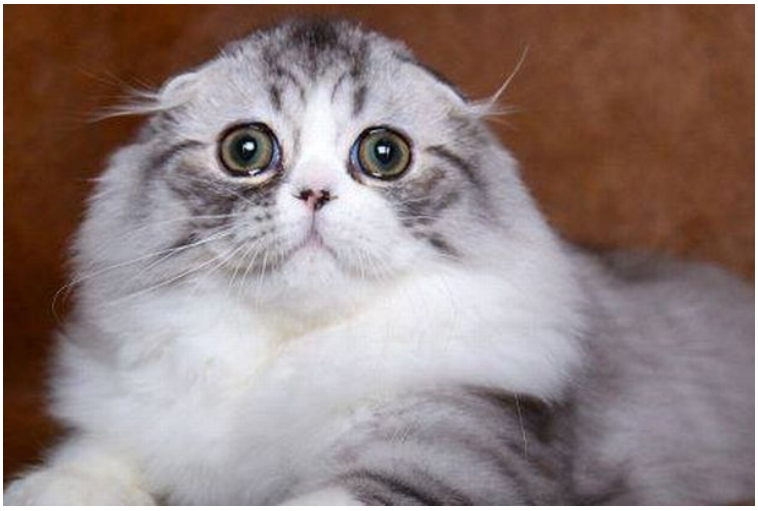
From the Space Race to the arms race, from politics to sport, East and West have long been locked in epic rivalry.

But not since Rocky Balboa stepped into the ring with Ivan Drago in Rocky IV has there been a Cold War head-to-head as explosive as the one at present.

In the blue corner is Mowgleaves Stonehenge , a young Anglo-American upstart from London hoping for a world-first double in his first competitive year.

In the red corner is title holder Rumfold Such a Flirt Shu-Ko, the pride of Moscow. The sport? Cat fancying. The competitors? Pedigree moggies.

Rumfold Such a Flirt Shu-Ko, nickname Sashock, is the reigning champion in the adult category and current number one in the league table. He comes from the cattery of legendary Russian cat breeder Nadejda Rumyantseva.



Snapping at his paws is Mowgleaves Stonehenge, Stone for short, who topped the kitten league earlier in the season.

With just weeks to go before the season ends, all is set for a claw-biting finale. And in a twist worthy of a Star Wars storyline, Sashock is Stone's father.

Both were vying for points in the The International Cat Association champions league.

Sashock was at a show in the USA, while Stone was strategically in Italy.

In a complex scoring system, show cats accumulate points not only for their characteristics and appearance but also for the other cats they beat.

Globally, cat fancying attracts up to a million spectators a year, with thousands of shows. TICA is the biggest cat fancying organisation and runs around 1,500 shows of its own across the world.

Last month Stone, an American shorthair, and Sashock, a Scottish fold, came muzzle-to-muzzle at LondonCats, the UK feline answer to Crufts.

PR boss Steven Meserve, 42, co-owns Stone with Cheshire vet Dr Vikki Moran. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, he has lived in London for 20 years and is one of LondonCats' organisers.

We went along as around 2,000 spectators watched some 220 cats compete.

And while the show, held in a leisure centre in Surrey, attracted its fair share of wild-haired mad cat ladies, there were also plenty of families and hipsters.

“Cats have serious momentum right now, what with all the virals and YouTube videos,” Steven says.

“Then you have cat cafes, the film A Street Cat Named Bob, and even an annual all-night cat festival [Catnip] in London with DJs.

“The plan is to get LondonCats to an expo level like the London Pet Show, but just for cats. It is the right time to do it.”

Steven jets around the world with Stone but, due to strict UK laws forbidding animals in the cabin, has to take a ferry to the continent first and fly from Holland. This season he has spent more than £25,000 chasing his dream.

After LondonCats he went to Paris, where Stone accumulated points and leapt from 50th to 8th in the league. Italy was a strategic gamble.

Steven says: “I know the Russian was at a big show in Oregon at the weekend, along with several of the other cats in the top 10.

"They would have all cancelled each other out because they would have split the judges and shared the points.

“I went to a lesser-known show near Milan, where Stone had a better chance of picking up points.”

TICA recognises more than 50 cat breeds, from Persians and Burmese to exotic Bengals and hairless Peterbalds.

And then there are plain weird ones, such as the Lykoi, or werewolf cat – the result of genetic mutation.

Show cats are judged on how closely they conform to the ideal characteristics of their breed. Unlike dogs, they cannot be persuaded to do agility tests.

Instead, they recline in luxury pens until they are judged. And the more moggies a cat beats, the more points it is awarded.

These accumulate through the season, which runs from May 1 to April 31.

Despite the cost of travel, hotels and cat care – Stone eats specially made raw food containing rabbit – there is no prize money.

The only money to be made is from stud cats. A normal kitten from a pedigree breeder can sell for around £1,500, but a top male breeding champion can sell for around £3,000 to £5,000.

But Steven says: “You could make money selling kittens, but for most of us that’s not the driving goal. Breeding a cat of such quality is a huge sense of accomplishment. It’s all about the cat.”

Meanwhile, to the east of Moscow, Sashock’s owner Nadejda is hoping her “boy” beats his son to the top slot.

She has been breeding cats since 1995 and travels the world giving seminars on cat grooming and genetics, as some breeds cannot mate with others.

She also owns cat salons and a range of cat toiletries, and her Scottish fold bloodline is arguably the most sought after in the world.

She says: “I have the biggest cattery in Europe but not all my cats live with me. I have staff who care for them 24 hours a day. In my home, I have around 25 adults and 40 kittens.

“I have eight co-owners who have my breeding females and males and help me make my breeding programme.”

Nadejda is now concentrating on the end of the show season.

“We can only win at big shows with a high point count. We have to plan it very well,” she says.

“Ultimately, it is a cat, not a toy and I don’t want him to become tired. If he has two or three weeks’ break between shows he feels perfect.”

But she admits: “America is catching up. Russia is proud of my cat, but as Steven’s cat was born from my boy it doesn’t matter who is first or second.”

Stone and Sashock will face each other again at two shows in France before the end of the season, which will decide the final placings. Yet Steven and Nadejda are firm friends.

Steven says: “The Russian is quite a pretty cat. But Stone only has four shows as an adult under his belt, so to be as highly ranked as he is is really impressive.

“The same cat has never won kitten and adult in the same year and you only get one shot so, I’m sorry Nadejda, but I’m going for it.”

In the red corner

- Rumfold such a flirt shu-ko (18 months)
- Nationality: Russian
- Hometown: Historic cattery, Likino, Russia
- Current adult cat fancying standing: 1st
- Highest standing as kitten: 300th
- Breed characteristics: Droopy ears
- Career opportunities: Merchandising tie-ins with own range of toiletries

Rumfold is the only winner, says Polly Hudson

The easiest gig in the world? Being one of the judges who has to choose between these two cats. There is literally no competition.

Rumfold Such A Flirt Shu-Ko must obviously be the victor. We should probably try to forget that these competitors are father and son – after all, whatever the outcome, their future relationship is likely to be tense and full of resentment at best. We may even see them on Jeremy Kyle one day.

But as the dad, Rumfold has life experience and wisdom on his side. He is also a much nicer colour than his son, because grey is soothing, very now, and goes with everything. And that’s all before we’ve even mentioned the ears.

Rumfold has a USP, a uniqueness – in a world of cats whose ears point upwards, he’s not afraid to be different. He is an aural maverick. For that alone, he must triumph. Rumfold for the win!

In the blue corner

- Mowgleaves Stonehenge (11 months)
- Nationality: Anglo American
- Hometown: Apartment in London, UK
- Current adult cat fancying standing: 9th
- Highest standing as kitten: 1st

- Breed characteristics: Square face
- Career opportunities: Stud cat

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

British Athletes Claim 'Sex Ghost' Is Haunting Reality Show

huffingtonpost.com

Who ya gonna call? Ghost Boinkers!

02/06/2017 05:14 pm ET
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post

Channel 4

Well, that's one way to scare up publicity.

Two British athletes starring on a reality show are claiming that a sex ghost seems to be haunting their hotel rooms.

British paralympian Kadeena Cox and retired rugby star Gareth Thomas are two of the celebrities competing on "The Jump," a British show where famous people compete in various snow sports — a "Ski Jump With The Stars," if you will.

The season's first episode aired Sunday on the Channel 4 network. But the show is scaring up more attention for what's happening in the celebs' hotel rooms.

During the episode, the 25-year-old Cox reportedly asked for a new room after allegedly being sexually violated by a ghost.

Another competing celebrity, Emma Parker-Bowles, the Duchess of Corwall's niece, said on the show that Cox "was penetrated" by some sort of paranormal entity.

Thomas, 42, concurred.

"She had a ghost going in and out of her. She had a sleep thing," he said, according to the Sun. "She wishes it were a person… It was going in and out of her body."

The feeling was apparently so real to her, she asked for a room change, as did Thomas.

"I wanted to move [to] different floors because when I'm hearing these ghost stories I was at the very, very end [of the corridor] and I got scared," he said, according to the Express.

Cox and Thomas are just the latest semi-famous people who've claimed to have had ghost sex. Last year, Bobby Brown promoted his autobiography by claiming a ghost had sex with him.

"I wasn't high," Brown told 20/20. "I was not tripping."

In September 2012, Kesha told Ryan Seacrest her song, "Supernatural," was inspired by a randy romp with a male ghost.

"It's about experiences with the supernatural ... but in a sexy way," she told Seacrest. "I had a couple of experiences with the supernatural. I don't know his name! He was a ghost! I'm very open

to it."

The concept of ghost sex arouses lots of interest, and there are some people — "spectrophilliacs" — who fantasize about spooky encounters.

Debunkers, however, are quick to dismiss ghost-on-human whoopee. Ben Radford, the deputy editor of Skeptical Inquirer magazine, calls such experiences hypnopompic and hypnagogic hallucinations.

These vivid hallucinations — which can be sexual — are common to people who are going in and out of sleep.

They are also usually harmless, Radford said in a 2014 article for Seeker.com:

> "Few people who are visited by these seductive specters complain about it, so if you experience it, there's little to fear."

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Brooklyn home owners paying $1000 a year to sit on their stoops

09:31 EST, 23 January 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

A group of homeowners in Brooklyn have been told if they want to sit on their stoops, they will have to pay for the privilege.

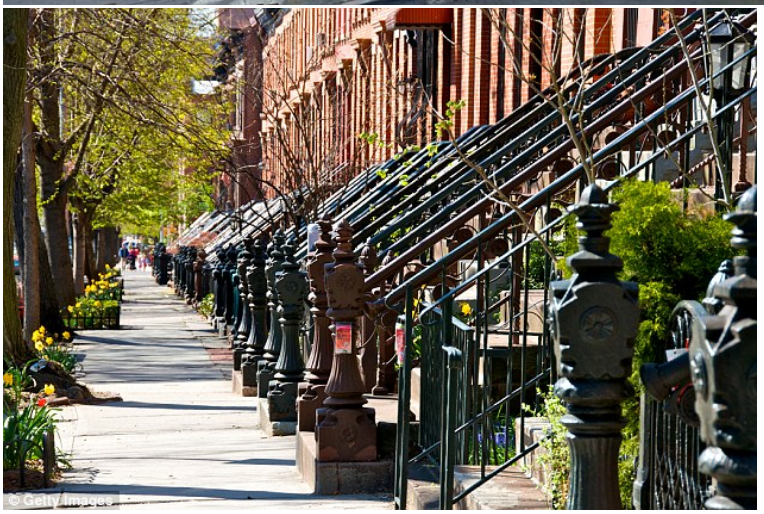
Nearly three dozen property owners in Boerum Hill say say they are being charged more than $1,000-a-year just to use the steps leading to their homes.

Despite owning their homes, which are worth as much as $2.5 million, residents are having to shell out even more to access the staircases up to their front doors, all because of a contract that included an 'illegal' side deal between the developer and city.

Developers who built a row of 34 townhouses on State Street between Hoyt and Smith streets in 2005 struck an agreement with the city that allowed them to charge for the staircase

Sitting on the stoop is a Brooklyn tradition. The homeowners claim charging $1,000 is illegal

'It's one of those weird, bureaucratic things that doesn't make sense,' said resident Luke Gunnell, 50, to the New York Post.



The side deal saw the builder being allowed to construct the homes' six foot stairways linking the property with the sidewalk, but for an additional fee.

In exchange, the city receives a special annual tax — paid for by the residents. It means that residents are effectively 'renting' the space where their stoops are.

A lawyer for the homeowners says the entire deal is 'inconceivable.'

Despite their frustration, Manhattan Supreme Court rule in favor of the city last week and the $1,000 annual tax will remain (file photo)

Jack Lester sued the city on behalf of the residents in 2015, arguing that the city should only be allowed to enter into such arrangements for temporary structures, such as scaffolding or things like marquees, flagpoles and awnings.

Under the current agreement, if the city wanted, they would be well within their rights to demolish the steps entirely.

Some homeowners have claimed the first they knew of the unusual agreement was when they were given a bill with an 'administrative fee' for more than $1,000 in 2015. They maintain that the entire agreement is illegal.

But, a lawyer for the city, William Vidal, has argued that the residents have nothing to moan about as the deal was clearly stipulated in their buyer's contract.

Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Joan Lobis ruled on the issue last week — and sided with the city saying that the city 'acted within its discretion.'

Lester now plans to meet with the homeowners to see if they want to appeal the rules with the city or sue the developer.

Comments (42)

The comments below have not been moderated.

Auntie Audacity, Expensiveton Hotel, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Why would anyone want to sit where people have been walking and transferring the skuzzy New York filth?

Mari, Florida, United States, 21 minutes ago

It's their own front steps. No one but the homeowner uses.

Smart_American_Man, Washington DC, United States, about 9 hours ago

Try that tax in Texas.....

Gill Avila, Morgan Hill CA USA, about 9 hours ago

In the "old days" those steps were built to keep the uncollected garbage in the streets out of people's homes. Now they're just an affectation.

qahwagi, Madison, United States, about 9 hours ago

Huh? Stairs are an "affectation"? Please say you're trying to be humorous . . .

Mari, Florida, United States, 20 minutes ago

Wrong. It leads to the staircase goes up to the third floor apartment you twit

Gunnar, New Philadelphia_Ohio, about 9 hours ago

You guys voted in the liberal dimwitcrats. Suffer in silence.

sarfgarfia, freeland, United States, about 13 hours ago

Good, I hope all the snowflakes are taxed to death by their liberal leaders. Its a micro example of their way of life, self destruction.

box5232, Dallas, about 14 hours ago

This demonstrates clearly that the bureaucracy and administrative law process is out of control. Only elected officials can impose a tax via the legislative process. Right chief justice roberts? That's how he validated Ohstupid care.

whisper, tacoma, about 15 hours ago

I would throw big parties often and do it on the stairs.

Bara, New York, about 15 hours ago

As much as I love living here, the greed of liberal politicians is disgusting. They'd tax us for breathing the air if they could.....Oh, wait.....

nagrof, under a tree near manchaca, United States, about 15 hours ago

Why the F do we put up with taxes on our homes? That means you never own your home the city,county,or state does. I live in Texas property taxes are ridiculous. Why give these people any power over your home?

Marc, New Zealand, about 14 hours ago

Homes, especially ones that are paid for, are nothing more than money in the bank for whoever wants to litigate against you. It's best that a person never own anything directly.

qahwagi, Madison, United States, about 9 hours ago

Why do we put up with taxes on our homes? Ask yourself why we put up with a police department, a fire department, public schools, water and sewer systems, roads, parks, public libraries . . . do you get the idea, or need I go on?

sslkklislsk, nyc, United States, about 16 hours ago

Before a/c, sitting on the steps used to be a way to keep cooler...being outside vs inside a hot house. After a/c, no one wants to sit outside on some steps.

Bara, New York, about 15 hours ago

What about those who prefer sitting outside on the steps if for no other reason than to "visit" with their neighbors?

xanos, Welcome to Albania, Albania, about 9 hours ago

It's NYC. It's not safe to sit outside on some steps. But these are rich folk. And it's not so much a stair tax, it's an easement. Odds are the developer couldn't get building permits to reach the sidewalk, didn't bribe enough inspectors or people at city hall, and had to work out this pathetic attempt. I'd say rip the damn stairs out, brick up the door, and either use the downstairs entrance, or maybe a firepole. Good upper arm exercise when bringing lots of groceries and big-screen tv's home.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Buddhist Monk arrested after 4,600,000 drugs are found in his car and monastery

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukTuesday 7 Feb 2017 12:55 pm

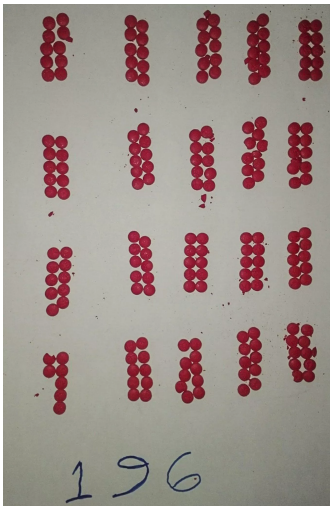
A Buddhist monk has been arrested after a huge haul of drugs was found (Picture: EPA)

A Buddhist monk has been arrested in Burma after authorities said they found more than four million methamphetamine pills in his car and his monastery.

The monk was stopped as he drove in northern Rakhine state, which borders Bangladesh, said police officer Maung Maung Yin.

Authorities had been tipped off that the monk was carrying an illegal haul. Maung Maung Yin said an anti-drug task force found 400,000 pills in the monk's car.

A subsequent search of his monastery turned up 4.2 million pills along with a grenade and ammunition.



A handout of some of the drugs that were found (Picture: EPA)

A statement from the office of Burma's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said that one million kyats (£591) in cash was also found in the vehicle.

Burma is a major producer of methamphetamine, usually smuggled from the north east to neighbouring countries.

It is also the world's second biggest producer of opium, from which heroin is derived.

'This is not a normal case, and when we were informed that the monk was arrested, we were all shocked,' said Kyaw Mya Win, a township police officer.

Police are questioning the monk (Picture: EPA)

Asked about the case, the director general of the religious affairs ministry, Soe Min Tun, acknowledged some surprise.

'It is not a very common case, but not impossible to happen. What will happen to the monk is that he will have to give up his monkhood right away and face trial as an ordinary person,' he said.

Police said they were still questioning the monk.

Last year, Burma officials seized 21 million methamphetamine pills with a street value of around $35.5 (£28.7 million) near the border with China in the biggest such seizure in recent memory

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Buddhist monk arrested in Myanmar with 4 million meth pills

ap.org

Feb. 7, 2017 3:28 AM EST
YANGON, MyanmarCopyright 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
16.805396.1561

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — A Buddhist monk has been arrested in Myanmar after authorities found more than 4 million methamphetamine pills in his car and in his monastery, police said Tuesday.

Officer Maung Maung Yin said the monk was stopped Sunday as he drove in northern Rakhine state, which borders Bangladesh. Authorities had been tipped off that the monk was carrying an illegal haul.

Maung Maung Yin said an anti-drug task force found 400,000 pills in the monk's car. A subsequent search of his monastery turned up 4.2 million pills along with a grenade and ammunition. A statement from the office of Myanmar's leader, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, said that one million kyats ($769) in cash was also found in the vehicle.

Myanmar is a major producer of methamphetamine, usually smuggled from the northeast to neighboring countries. It is also the world's second biggest producer of opium, from which heroin is derived.

"This is not a normal case, and when we were informed that the monk was arrested, we were all shocked," said Kyaw Mya Win, a township police officer.

Asked about the case, the director general of the Religious Affairs Ministry, Soe Min Tun, acknowledged some surprise.

"It is not a very common case, but not impossible to happen. What will happen to the monk is that he will have to give up his monkhood right away and face trial as an ordinary person," he said.

Police said they were still questioning the monk Tuesday.

Last year, Myanmar officials seized 21 million methamphetamine pills with a street value around $35.5 million near the border with China in the biggest such seizure in recent memory.

AP News | © 2017 Associated Press | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | AP Books | AP Images | ap.org

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Burger King offers 'adult meal' with a free adult toy for Valentine's Day

telegraph.co.uk

Sexy burgers. Credit: Burger King Israel

- Adam Boult

14 February 2017 • 5:23pm

If your partner suggests going out for a meal on Valentine's Day, it's unlikely that Burger King would be on the top of your list of dream venues.

Nevertheless, the fast food chain is capitalising on the day of love with a special Valentine's Day promotion, offering diners an 'adult' meal, which comes with a free adult toy.

But, before you get too excited, it's only available in Israel.

In a YouTube video advertising the offer, a voiceover says: "Kids meal? That's for kids."

Over a 'sexy' soundtrack with an appropriately throbbing bass line, it continues: "Burger King presents the adult meal, with an adult's toy inside."

Amorous diners taking advantage of the deal, which is only available after 6pm, will get two Whoppers, two fries, two beers and an adult toy, which, judging from the video, will be one of either a blindfold, feather duster or a head massager.

Eagle-eyed readers might notice that at least one of those toys is not in the least bit sexy - but then, putting actual sex toys in with your food might have been just a little off-putting.

The campaign was produced by ad agency Leo Burnett.

Any diners in the UK on the lookout for a Valentine's meal deal might want to head over to Subway, who are today offering a free 6-inch sub with the purchase of a drink.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Judge rules council can bury mummified bodies kept by son

scotsman.com

Lucinda Cameron

15:1716:15Friday 03 February 2017

The embalmed bodies of a couple who died more than two decades ago are to be buried after their son lost a legal battle with the council.

Lord Mulholland granted Edinburgh City Council the authority to bury Eugenois and Hilda Marcel after their son made no arrangements to do so, keeping their remains at a property in Edinburgh for several years.

Hilda Marcel died on February 10, 1987 aged 68, while Eugenois died on August 31, 1994 aged 91.

In May 2002, police investigating another matter discovered that the couple had not been buried but were stored in their son Melvyn's premises at Gilmore Place.

The embalmed bodies were moved from there to the city mortuary, where they are currently stored.

Prosecutors were told of the discoveries but no proceedings were brought and the procurator fiscal said the bodies could be released for burial or cremation.

Edinburgh City Council has been discussing the burial of the couple with Mr Marcel since 2012, but applied for permission to bury them after he made no arrangements to do so.

In his written judgment, Lord Mulholland said the council understood Mr Marcel planned to build a refrigerated unit in his residential property within which the bodies would be stored.

This would be a temporary measure until an above-ground vault was built.

It is understood Mr Marcel's ultimate intention was to have the bodies of his parents transferred to the West Bank in the Middle East for burial.

Giving his judgment at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday, Lord Mulholland said the city council has a "statutory duty" to dispose of the remains.

He pointed out that continuations of the case during the legal proceedings had given Mr Marcel time to make his own arrangements for burial of his parents, but he had not done so.

He wrote: "He has not taken up this opportunity and vague suggestions during his submissions (and in the pleadings and correspondence) that he intended to apply for planning permission for a mausoleum to house his parents' bodies did not seem to me to be realistic or anything more than a vague statement of intent.

"He has had ample opportunity to make arrangements to dispose of his parents' bodies in accordance with his and his family's wishes.

"It should be noted that the bodies of the defender's parents have been in the city mortuary for many years, no doubt at some cost to the City of Edinburgh at a time when the public purse is under significant constraint."

Lord Mulholland said it would be helpful for the city council to “give due consideration to any realistic requests made by the defender and his family as to the arrangements for disposal of his parents’ bodies” and said it is important that the local authority “undertake their statutory duties sensitively and with respect, as I am sure they will do”.

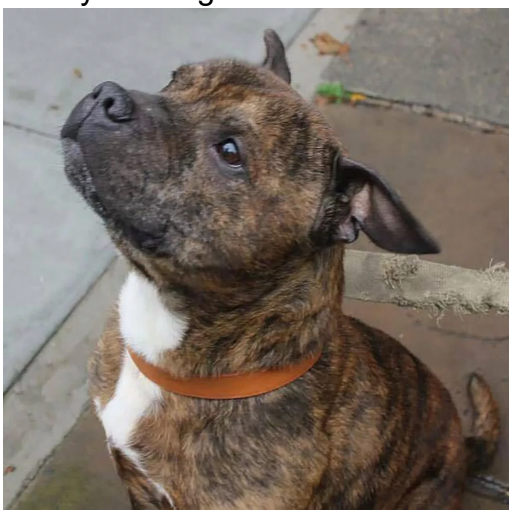
A council spokesman said: “We acknowledge the Court of Session’s decision and will take the necessary and appropriate steps to bury the bodies.”

© Johnston Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.

Dog who ate dead owner's body may not be put down despite family's request

metro.co.uk

Jimmy Nsubuga for Metro.co.ukMonday 16 Jan 2017 12:55 pm



Butch the dog was found eating his owner's corpse (Picture: Mercury)

A dog who ate his owner's corpse may escape a death sentence after an animal rights group won the right for his case to be reviewed.

Police were granted an order to destroy Butch after they found him feeding on the body of his owner in Waterloo, Liverpool.

The ten-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier was said to be 'highly agitated' and aggressive towards officers who attended his home in September 2014.

'Butch was left alone for four days without water and food not knowing if anyone was ever coming to help him,' said Kate Lee, a trustee of dog charity The Senior Staffy Club.

'He has done what dogs do and what has come naturally to him.'

Butch is currently being held by police (Picture: Mercury)

An inquest never determined if Butch was responsible for his owner's death but his family still supported the order for his destruction, which was approved on April 14 last year.

Judge Nigel Bird has now granted a judicial review into the fairness of the original hearing.

Animal campaigners won a review of his case (Picture: Mercury)

Law firm Parry Welch Lacey, which represented The Senior Staffy Club, said the case had been really expensive for the public.

‘Kennelling costs the police as a whole £1.6 million a year and in response to a Freedom of Information request Merseyside Police told us they spent £163,610 on kennelling in 2015-16,’ said the firm’s solicitor Kate Welsh.

‘That adds up to quite a lot of policeman’s wages, so it is in the police’s interest to finish this case as quickly as possible.’

A Merseyside Police spokesman added: ‘The chief constable notes the decision from court and matters are still ongoing.’

Butch is currently being held at Merseyside Police kennels.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Toy Company Legal Battle Shows Cabbage Patch Kids Still Prompting Fights

consumerist.com

CONSUMERIST May 11, 2016 10:55 am EST By Mary Beth Quirk@marybethquirk

doll deja vu cabbage patch kids dolls toys Wicked Cool Toys Original Appalachian Artworks jakks legal battles lawsuits

Long gone are the days of parents tussling it out in toy store aisles over Cabbage Patch Dolls, those squish-faced darlings of the early ’80s, but there are still people willing to duke it out in the name of the doll. This time, they’re toy companies, and they’re fighting each other in court.

Though the Cabbage Patch line doesn’t pull in anywhere near the $600 million a year it enjoyed in its heyday, the brand is still doing pretty well, with $50 million a year in revenue, Bloomberg reports in an in-depth look at the doll fight of our time.

The battle for those millions is going down right now between the company that holds the marketing license for the dolls now, Wicked Cool Toys, and Jakks Pacific Inc., the previous license holder.

Here’s what it boils down to: the brand’s owner, Original Appalachian Artworks Inc., has been giving the marketing license to different companies over the years. After a decade with Jakks, OAA handed the license to Wicked Cool Toys in 2014, a company that was started in 2012 by a former senior Jakks executive named Michael Rinzler. Cue litigation avalanche.

Jakks sued [PDF] Wicked Cool Toys and a man named Jeremy Padawer in New York court last September, seeking $20 million in damages. Padawer had worked on Cabbage Patch Kids when he was working at Jakks. He then moved to join Rinzler at Wicked Cool Toys, which didn’t sit too well with his former employers: Jakks accused Padawer of disparaging the company and leaking information, in order to convince OAA to take the license away from Jakks and give it to Wicked Cool Toys.

Wicked Cool Toys and Padawer denied those charges and countersued, accusing Jakks of cutting advertising for the Cabbage Patch line and flooding the market with low-priced dolls right before it lost the license, as part of an effort to tarnish the brand before it moved to a new company. Those moves cost Wicked Cool Toys at least $4 million in sales, the suit says.

The lawsuit also alleges that CEO and co-founder Stephen Berman was in charge of a hostile workplace at Jakks, one with homosexual slurs, physical abuse, and intimidation. Berman didn’t comment to Bloomberg.

Jakks says the claims the countersuit makes are baseless, and that it’s all an attempt to get back at it for filing its lawsuit, in a filing asking the court to dismiss the action.

Besides, there’s nothing wrong in cutting prices of your own product, even if it happens to be at an inconvenient time for a rival, said an attorney representing Jakks.

“Wal-Mart can’t complain about how Amazon prices its goods or how Amazon advertises,” he said at a hearing in Manhattan. “Even if we told other retailers we don’t like them, it’s all good, that’s competition.”

For more on the latest legal brouhaha over Cabbage Patch dolls, head over to Bloomberg for the full story.

If you're feeling nostalgic, here's a news report from the 1980s covering Cabbage Patch Kids mania:

The New Fight Over Cabbage Patch Kids Has Sabotage, Choke Holds and Slurs [Bloomberg]

May 11, 2016 By Mary Beth Quirk@marybethquirk

doll deja vu cabbage patch kids dolls toys Wicked Cool Toys Original Appalachian Artworks jakks legal battles lawsuits

Founded in 2005, Consumerist is an independent source of consumer news and information published by Consumer Media LLC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of Consumer Reports.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

UPI
Search

California city councilman sworn in holding Captain America shield

By Daniel Uria | Jan. 26, 2017 at 12:13 PM Follow @oddnewsupi

0 Comments

Lan Diep
on Tuesday

My first council meeting. They made me take the oath again.

24 5 2

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- A newly elected city councilman in California paid tribute to one of his heroes by holding a replica Captain America shield as he was sworn in.

San Jose City Councilman Lan Diep, 32, shared a photo of himself holding the red, white and blue shield as he raised his hand to take the oath of office at his first city council meeting.

"My first council meeting. They made me take the oath again," he wrote.

Diep, a Republican, described himself as a comics nerd and told the Mercury News he considers Captain America the "embodiment of America's ideals."

"These are the same ideals I hope to live up to as a representative of San Jose," he said. "Plus, I had this really cool shield I wanted to show off."

The shield is one of only 1,000 limited edition movie-prop replicas from the film *Captain America: The First Avenger*, which Diep decided to dig out of his closet for the meeting.

"I already had my group swearing in, and that was official. That one goes to the state," he told the Washington Post. "And I had this really cool shield that I never get to show anybody. One of the most patriotic things that you can do is get involved in democracy."

Diep said the idea came to him of using the shield to brighten up the contentious state of American politics.

"I don't want people to assume I assigned more forethought and meaning to this than I did," he said. "The political landscape as of late has been gloomy. I just wanted to bring a moment of levity to the proceedings."

He assured he remains committed to taking on the city's serious issues with the appropriate amount of respect and hopes the attention brought on by the stunt can encourage more people to engage in politics.

"I take the job seriously, of course," Diep said. "I take myself less seriously. I'm not above entertaining people in hopes that they will wade through the policy discussions."

Like us on Facebook for more stories from UPI.com

Related UPI Stories

- California Senate candidate 'dabs' in response to debate time limit
- Cards Against Humanity shares CEO job listing aimed at Barack Obama
- Why George W. Bush and his rain poncho are trending on social media

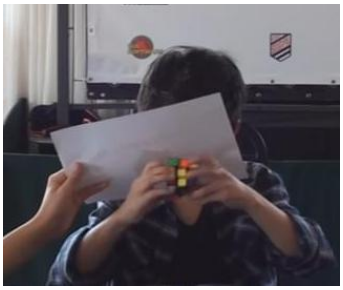
0 Comments

http://upi.com/6486785

LATEST HEADLINES

More than 100 puppies rescued from New York highway after car crash

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- More than 100 puppies were rescued by state police after spilling onto a New York interstate during an automobile crash.



Boy, 7, solves Rubik's cube in under 2 minutes -- while blindfolded

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- An 8-year-old Rubik's cube whiz was filmed solving a puzzle in 1 minute, 44 seconds -- while blindfolded.

New York man wins $5 million lottery jackpot on his birthday

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- A New York man celebrated his 20th birthday in an unusual way -- winning $5 million from a state lottery scratch-off ticket.

New York governor blows up 85-year-old bridge

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo pushed the plunger to detonate an 85-year-old steel bridge in Ulster County as part of a bridge replacement program.

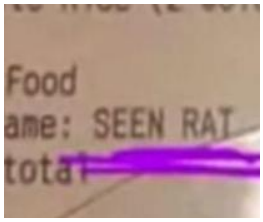
Camel abandoned at tollbooth after owner argues over cost

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- Drivers at a Chinese tollbooth were left scratching their heads when they found their path blocked by a camel abandoned by a man who argued with workers.

UPI Latest

TRENDING STORIES

California restaurant receipt shows $30.95 discount for 'seen rat'



Australian diver forms years-long friendship with cuddle-loving shark

Elk walks into Colorado store, hangs out for nearly an hour

Hikers find path blocked by snake fighting large goanna lizard

Skier falls off 150-foot cliff in Utah, avoids injury

MORE COLLECTIONS

Popular American brands in China

Memorable selfies of 2016

Braving the cold to take part in the 33rd Annual Polar Bear Jump

Clemson beats Alabama to win 2017 CFP National Championship game

2016 NFL Cheerleaders

2016 NY Comic Con

Go Topless Pride Parade [NSFW]

2016: Most revealing red carpet looks

EXPLORE UPI

Top News
Entertainment News
Odd News
Sports News
Science News
Health News
News Photos
World News
U.S. News
Energy News
Defense News
UPI Archives

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

United Press International is a leading provider of news, photos and information to millions of readers around the globe via UPI.com and its licensing services.

With a history of reliable reporting dating back to 1907, today's UPI is a credible source for the most important stories of the day, continually updated - a one-stop site for U.S. and world news, as well as entertainment, trends, science, health and stunning photography. UPI also provides insightful reports on key topics of geopolitical importance, including energy and security.

STAY UP TO DATE

Your name | Email address | Subscribe

UPI

Contact | Advertise Online with UPI | Submit News Tips | Feedback

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
TERMS OF USE | PRIVACY POLICY

California man fights DUI charge for driving under influence of caffeine

Julia Carrie Wong in San Francisco
Saturday 24 December 2016 Last modified on Saturday 24 December 2016

theguardian.com

Attorney for Joseph Schawb, charged with driving under the influence of a drug when his blood test showed only caffeine, calls the charge unheard of

Caffeine may be the “nootropic” brain drug of choice in Silicon Valley, but an hour’s drive north in Solano County, California, the stimulant could get you charged with driving under the influence.

That is according to defense attorney Stacey Barrett, speaking on behalf of her client, Joseph Schwab.

After being pulled over on 5 August 2015, Schwab was charged by the Solano County district attorney with misdemeanor driving under the influence of a drug.

Almost 18 months later, Schwab is preparing to go to trial. The only evidence the DA has provided of his intoxication is a blood test showing the presence of caffeine.

Shcwab was driving home from work when he was pulled over by an agent from the California department of alcoholic beverage control, who was driving an unmarked vehicle. The agent said Schwab had cut her off and was driving erratically.

The 36-year-old union glazier was given a breathalyzer test which showed a 0.00% blood alcohol level, his attorney said. He was booked into county jail and had his blood drawn, but the resulting toxicology report came back negative for benzodiazepines, cocaine, opiates, THC, carisoprodol (a muscle relaxant), methamphetamine/MDMA, oxycodone, and zolpidem.

The sample was screened a second time by a laboratory in Pennsylvania, according to documents provided to the Guardian, where the sole positive result was for caffeine – a substance likely coursing through the veins of many drivers on the road at any given time.

“I’ve never seen this before,” said Barrett. “I’ve never even heard of it.”

Barrett has filed a motion for the case to be dismissed because the charges were not brought until June 2016 – nearly 10 months after incident. If that motion is denied, Schwab will take his case to a jury on 11 January.

Sharon Henry, chief deputy district attorney for Solano County, said in a statement that her office was “conducting further investigation in this matter”.

“The charge of driving under the influence is not based upon the presence of caffeine in his system,” she added.

Barrett counters that if the prosecution has evidence of a different drug in her client’s system, it should have to provided that to her, based on the rules governing criminal procedings.

“I have not been provided with any evidence to support a theory of prosecution for a substance other than caffeine at this time,” she said. “Nor I have received any statements, reports, etc documenting any ongoing investigation since the [toxicology report] dated 18 November 2015.”

Henry declined to comment further, citing the right to a fair trial.

“It’s really stupid,” said Jeffrey Zehnder, a forensic toxicologist who frequently testifies in court cases. Over 41 years, Zehnder said, he had never seen a prosecution for driving under the influence of caffeine.

“If that’s the case, then they better come and arrest me,” he joked.

Zehnder was informed about the case by Barrett, but has not been contracted to testify on either side.

California vehicle code defines a “drug” as any substance besides alcohol that could affect a person in a manner that would “impair, to an appreciable degree” his ability to drive normally.

Making that case with caffeine would be difficult, Zehnder said, because the prosecutor would have to show that impaired driving was specifically caused by the caffeine and not any other circumstances.

“There are no studies that demonstrate that driving is impaired by caffeine, and they don’t do the studies, because no one cares about caffeine,” he said.

As for Schwab, he just wants this ordeal to be over. In a statement provided to the Guardian by his attorney, he said his reputation had been damaged.

“No one believed me that I only had caffeine in my system until I showed them the lab results,” he said. “I want the charges to be dismissed and my name to be cleared.”

© 2016 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Camel abandoned at tollbooth after owner argues over cost

upi.com

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- Drivers at a Chinese tollbooth were left scratching their heads when they found their path blocked by a camel abandoned by a man who argued with workers.

A video recorded Jan. 17 at a toll booth in Chongqing shows the camel blocking one of the tollbooth's gates after being abandoned by its owner.

The owner had reportedly argued with toll workers about the cost of taking the camel through the booth and ended up going to eat at a restaurant, leaving the workers to deal with the traffic-blocking camel.

Police were summoned and ordered the owner to remove the camel and pay a fine.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Canadian man punches cougar attacking dog near fast food store

yahoo.com

REUTERS
Reuters
By Nia Williams
ReutersDecember 28, 2016

By Nia Williams

CALGARY, Alberta (Reuters) - A Canadian man punched a cougar in the face to stop it attacking his dog in a wooded area near a fast food store in Whitecourt, central Alberta, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said on Wednesday.

William Gibb, 31, from Red Deer, Alberta, had stopped at a Tim Hortons outlet, a popular Canadian restaurant chain while driving 600-kilometre (372-miles) to Grand Prairie on Monday evening and let his dog out for a walk, Whitecourt RCMP Sergeant Tom Kalis said.

Shortly after, Gibb heard his 80-pound (36-kg) female Husky called Sasha whimpering in pain and found a cougar pinning her to the ground.

"I could see something wrapped around her and wasn't sure what it was. I ran over and punched it in what I thought was the head, and it backed off and I realized it was a cougar," Gibb, an electrician, told Reuters.

"I stepped over Sasha and charged at it swinging and screaming and calling for my brother and buddy to give a hand," he added.

Gibb kept the cougar at bay, which he said swiped at him a few times, as he tended to his injured dog and called the police, before getting Sasha into his truck and driving her away for medical attention.

He said the police arrived five or 10 minutes later and, after consulting with fish and wildlife officers, killed the cougar because of the risk it could attack another dog or even humans.

Gibb himself was not seriously injured, although Sasha bit him on the hand as he was trying to rescue her.

Kalis said cougar sightings were not uncommon around Whitecourt because the town is surrounded by forests, but it is unusual for them to attack dogs.

(Reporting by Nia Williams; Editing by Sandra Maler and Alistair Bell)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Cannibal hamsters eat babies due to corn diet

By Adam Arnold, News Reporter

sky.com

http://news.sky.com/story/cannibal-hamsters-eat-their-babies-due-to-corn-diet-in-france-10745679

The rodents previously feasted on a variety of grains, roots and insects but changing farming practices has hit their food source.

11:32, UK, Saturday 28 January 2017

Hamsters living in the wild in northeastern France are eating their babies alive due to a limited diet of corn, according to new research.

The rodents have in the past fed on a rich variety of grains, roots and insects.

But due to changing farming practices with an emphasis on industrially grown maize or corn, their diet is limited and imbalanced.

They are missing out on important vitamins like B3, or niacin, their habitat is "collapsing" and they are being turned into cannibals, believe experts.

The European hamster, also known as Cricetus cricetus, is critically endangered in western Europe.

Scientists carried out laboratory tests on the animals, with some mothers living on wheat and corn-based diets as well as clover or worms, and others who just had corn.

About 80% of the babies whose mothers had a varied diet were weaned - but only 5% of the offspring of the females fed corn made it to that stage - with the rest eaten.

The scientists said: "Females stored their pups with their hoards of maize before eating them. Pups were still alive at that time."

The mothers also ran around in circles, "climbing and pounding their feeders," when scientists entered the room.

The rodents had swollen and dark tongues, and blood so thick it was difficult to draw for samples, it was recorded.

However, when the hamsters were given the vitamin B3 in their corn diets, their symptoms disappeared and they stopped eating their young.

Vitamin B3 deficiency has been linked to 'black-tongue' syndrome in dogs, and a condition in humans called pellagra, also known as the "3-D" disease: diarrhoea, dementia and dermatitis, such

as eczema.

"Improperly cooked maize-based diets have been associated with higher rates of homicide, suicide and cannibalism in humans," the researchers said.

Gerard Baumgart, president of the Research Centre for Environmental Protection in Alsace and a hamster expert, said: "There's clearly an imbalance. Our hamster habitat is collapsing."

He added: "Monoculture in agriculture is really bad for biodiversity. Now we need to take concrete action."

© 2017 Sky UK

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Canoe closes M1 motorway

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukSunday 29 Jan 2017 11:53 am

The canoe caused problems on the M1 (Picture: PA)

A canoe has been moved by traffic officers after being found in the fast lane of the M1.

The ‘unusual debris’ was found on the southbound carriageway of the motorway between junctions 30 and 29a in Derbyshire on Sunday morning.

Highways England said traffic was held briefly while the red canoe was cleared from the road.

It tweeted: ‘#M1 southbound J30 – J29A. Unusual debris this morning… take care in the area. Our #TrafficOfficers are heading to the scene to clear…

‘1 canoe now cleared from outside lane after short hold of traffic… safe onward journey.’

Police closed the motorway as they moved it off the road (Picture: PA)

The road was swiftly reopened (Picture: PA)

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Cat Litter or Meth? Texan Says Deputies Couldn't Tell

Published at 9:46 AM EST on Jan 11, 2017 | Updated at 9:53 AM EST on Jan 11, 2017

nbcmiami.com

His case was dismissed because the controlled substance deputies found was not illicit

A Houston-area man says sheriff's deputies conducted faulty field tests on cat litter they found in his vehicle, which they believed was methamphetamine.

Ross Lebeau was charged with possession of a controlled substance following the Dec. 5 traffic stop, but court documents show the case was dismissed last week because the material was not an illicit substance.

Lebeau told the Houston Chronicle for a story this week that his father had placed the cat litter in the sock as a way to absorb moisture and keep the car's windows from fogging.

The Harris County sheriff's office says deputies smelled marijuana coming from the car and conducted a search. Officials say marijuana was found in the console and Lebeau never identified what was in the sock.

© 2017 NBCUniversal Media, LLC. All rights reserved.

Copyright Associated Press

Cat saves family from fire by biting owner's arm

metro.co.uk

Charles WhiteSunday 12 Feb 2017 9:16 am

The ‘hero’ cat being taken from the wreckage of the mobile home (Picture: William Vavrek Photography)

A cat has saved the lives of its owner after raising the alarm during a fire by biting on her arm.

When a fire broke out in a Clairmont mobile home in Canada the family pet reportedly ran to the adult’s room and woke up a woman.

The woman, a mother-of-two, told the local fire department that their cat saved them.

Woken at 3:30am, the parents and children were able to flee their house and called for help.

Put in touch with the Red Cross, the family are now staying in another property.

Because of the quick-acting cat’s actions firefighters contained the fire to the base of the mobile home and put it out quickly.

County of Grande Prairie fire Chief Trevor Grant told the Edmonton Journal: ‘It’s pretty interesting to see that it was the cat that did alert them that there was an issue’.

No one was injured but speaking to Buzzfeed News Grant said the family were: ‘Pretty happy with their cat. The cat woke them up with enough time, if they hadn’t been notified it could have definitely been a different result.’

The cat, called a ‘hero’, has not been named and neither have his owners.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Trial starts of Munich teacher who sawed lover to death during sex

thelocal.de

Gabriele P. in court in Munich. Photo: DPA

The Local
news@thelocal.de
13 February 2017
11:52 CET+01:00

A Munich man died after his girlfriend tied him to the bed and attacked him with a chainsaw. But was the death murder, or an act of desperation?

The trial started on Monday of a woman accused of murdering her boyfriend in extraordinary circumstances.

On a winter night in late 2008 Gabriele P. and Alex H. were having sex at home in their apartment in the east of Munich, the Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ) reports.

As usual the 28-year-old Alex H. had pulled a pair of diver's goggles covered in duct tape over his eyes, meaning that he couldn't see.

At some point during the intercourse he asked his girlfriend to tie him down.

But after she had bound him to the bed frame, Gabriele P. reached for a chainsaw which was lying nearby. She removed the safety catch and pressed it to her boyfriend's chest. He died from the injuries.

For months his body lay where he had been killed. The 23-year-old trainee teacher cut his head from his body with the saw and then pulled a sheet over the body and never went back into the room, according to the prosecution.

It was only when the young woman took her new boyfriend home six months later, that he discovered the partially dismembered body. But instead of informing the authorities, he enlisted the help of a friend and carried the pieces down into the garden, where they were buried.

Alex H.'s foster parents became worried when they didn't hear from him and employed a private detective to track him down. But they heard a rumour that he had moved to Romania with a new girlfriend and wanted to break off contact with his entire family. It is unclear whether Gabriele P. started the rumour.

An apparent sighting in 2010 also appeared to convince authorities that Alex H. was still alive.

Only in February 2016 did police discover his remains, acting on a tip-off they had received weeks earlier.

it is now up to the judge to decide whether Gabriele P.'s crime constituted murder, or whether there were mitigating circumstances.

According to the SZ, Gabriele P.'s diary records her tumultuous relationship with Alex H. and the demeaning sexual practices he thought up and which she let happen.

Investigators have spoken to witnesses who recount how Gabriele P. threw her boyfriend out of the house after a huge argument at some point in December. But shortly after, he was able to persuade her to let him move back in.

The prosecution alleges though, that it was at this point the young woman decided to murder him.

But her defence saw that the act was not premeditated. It claims that the chainsaw lay in the bedroom as the couple were undertaking renovation work.

The attack was an impulsive "act of desperation" - a crime that does not constitute murder - the defence argues.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Power box EXPLODES sending concrete blocks and road barriers flying

08:10 EST, 26 December 2016 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com
MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

'Everyone was panicked': Power box EXPLODES sending 40kg concrete blocks and road barriers flying through the air

- **Around 30 homes were left without power in Chigwell, Essex**
- **Concrete blocks and road barriers were tossed into the air by the blast**
- **Two maintenance vans were also damaged as a result of the huge explosion**

By Paddy Dinham For Mailonline

This is the shocking moment a green power box billowed thick black smoke and blew up - shooting 40kg concrete blocks and road barriers into the air.

Around 30 homes were left without power and two maintenance vans were damaged after the explosion in Chigwell, Essex, at around 2.45pm on Thursday.

Imran Yousaf, 21, watched the drama unfold from his bedroom window and said he feared the huge concrete blocks could have killed someone.

Street power box explodes sending 40KG of concrete flying

He said: 'I'm an electrician by trade and as I was watching it I thought 'I'm telling you now that's going to blow'.

'You don't normally see smoke like that unless something is wrong.

'One of the workers was standing over it, he was told to move quickly and then it went "boom."

'Two of their vans were damaged, but luckily it wasn't someone's head or house.'

Imran said that the box smouldered for about five minutes before blowing up and shooting flames into the air near fearful onlookers.

Imran said: 'Two of the square concrete slabs which give you access to the cables, and take about three men to lift safely, went up in the air along with a red barrier they put up.

This is the shocking moment a green power box billowed thick black smoke and blew up in Chigwell, Essex

'Everyone was panicked as they ran away from the blast. The video ends so suddenly because my 12-year-old brother, Imtiaz, was stood outside and I wanted to make sure he was ok.

'He was fine and just complained of a ringing in his ears.

'My mum was a bit upset that he was in the street when it went off, but nothing that a cream cake wouldn't fix.'

Imran said Virgin Media engineers had been working on Fontayne Avenue just before the blast sent debris flying.

Imran claims workmen at the scene shortly after the explosion said they suspected two cores in a cable, which would normally have been insulated, had touched, while someone else suggested there might have been a power surge.

40kg concrete blocks and road barriers (circled right) were thrown into the air. An onlooker said it was lucky nobody was killed

A UK Power Networks spokesman said: 'We are investigating an incident in the Chigwell area, which interrupted power to 28 properties on Thursday [December 22nd].

'Our engineers attended to investigate and restored power supplies.'

A Virgin Media spokesman said: 'We can confirm that no one was injured during the incident and we apologise for any worry this may have caused the local residents.

'UK Power Networks is currently investigating the cause of the fault which caused the incident.

'Both power and broadband services have now been restored for local residents.'

Comments (

eyetops, Manchester, about 3 hours ago

Crass comment.

phil414, memphis, United States, about 4 hours ago

Never cease to be perplexed by people that decide to sit on power boxes, I have seen them go.

PeterFoil, Birmingham, United Kingdom, about 9 hours ago

The guy wearing the hoodie and the shorts needs to decide whether he's hot or cold.

andre, South London, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

Have you tried turning it on and off again?

simonm, South East, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

You're only supposed to blow the Bl,,dy doors off!

Rideonmowerclubofuk, Sandown, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

Power Box? Uh!

Spartan Man 07, London, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

"Imran said Virgin Media engineers had been working on Fontayne Avenue just before the blast sent debris flying." - Say no more.

PeterFoil, Birmingham, United Kingdom, about 9 hours ago

Maybe it was Imran?

TheEnglishman101, North East, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

They arent concrete blocks you idiot! There obviously the doors that have been blown off.

simonm, South East, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

Why does that remind me of Michael Caine?

zacklaws, Beverley, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

They looked too light to be 40kg blocks as they float about a bit.

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Chilling mystery white figure seen standing in 'haunted' Victorian theatre

By Shanti Das 15:21, 16 JAN 2017 Updated 15:25, 16 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Chilling mystery white figure seen standing in same Victorian theatre where actress died on stage from heart attack

Eva Gray collapsed back stage after signing 'Goodbye Little Girl, Goodbye' to crowds in 1904

**

A picture appears to show an unexplained white figure inside a Victorian theatre rumoured to be haunted by an actress who died backstage.

In the picture, a mystery shape appears looming over the stage where the woman suffered a fatal heart attack .

And in another video, a white orb appears to float across the theatre in front of terrified explorers.

The clip appears to show a floating white orb zooming across the stage and off camera.

It was taken by a group of keen ghost hunters, who wanted to catch the legend on film for the very first time.

Eva Gray collapsed back stage after signing 'Goodbye Little Girl, Goodbye' to crowds at the Biddeford City Theater in Maine, USA, 1904.

The spirit supposedly stalks the building where she died aged 33 following her third encore for demanding audiences on Halloween.

Ghost hunters have now captured the first ever image of an apparition inside the building - built in the 1800s - which they believe is the ghost of Eva Gray.

Infa-red images taken at the theatre last month show a ghostly white figure in an evening dress standing on the stairs appearing to walk out of the building.

Others show a creepy apparition looking out over the stage from the upper tier - while a video shows a mysterious white figure float across the screen.

Caroline Mezoian, 51, who took the photos, believes it is the spirit of Eva Gray, who died while her own three-year-old daughter was in the audience.

She said: "This is the first time in four years of paranormal research we have ever captured a full body apparition.

"I didn't really believe it at first, but when you look at the images how can you deny that's not something?"

Caroline said that other members of the ghost hunting group - made up of working mums - said they felt a chilly presence.

Her footage also shows a second figure standing on the balcony appearing to look down over the stage.

She added: "I am not one of the 'feelers or sensitives' on the team. I'm all about the equipment and i need to be able to see something or hear something on our devices.

"I painstakingly go through footage and I'm still not done from the investigation. Others in the group felt something but I can honestly say we never expected that.

"Its real but we will let people think what they want."

Caroline and friends were in the spooky theatre from 5.30pm - 8.45pm on December 19 after being granted permission from the owner.

She added: "'Sceptics will think what they want but this is the most convincing evidence we have yet."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Chinese man bikes 300 miles in wrong direction on way home

upi.com

By Daniel Uria | Jan. 26, 2017 at 10:42 AM

A Chinese migrant worker accidentally biked 310 miles in the wrong direction on his way home for a Chinese New Year celebration. Police stopped the man, who had been living in internet cafes, for riding on a highway and helped pay for his ticket. Screen capture/Newsflare/AOL

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- A Chinese man accidentally biked several hundred miles in the wrong direction while making his way home after New Year celebration.

The migrant worker had left in December on the 1,056 mile bicycle trip from Rizhao, in Shandong up north to Qiqihar, Heilongjiang province, but was stopped by police in the central Chinese province of Anhui after traveling 310 miles in the wrong direction, according to the BBC.

Officers stopped him for driving on a highway which cannot be used by cyclists and informed him he had been accidentally traveling south.

"We found it strange that someone was cycling on the motorway," police said, according to The Telegraph.

The man told police he could not read maps or road signs and was forced to rely on asking people for directions, which left him traveling the wrong way for nearly half the trip.

He also explained he had been living in internet cafes and did not have enough money to purchase a train ticket.

Once they learned of his mistake police and toll workers paid for the man's ticket home.

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

WEIRD NEWS

Cinnabon Decided To Use Carrie Fisher's Death To Hawk Its Cinnamon Rolls

There's really no good way for a corporate brand to honor a celebrity's passing.

12/27/2016 06:24 pm ET | **Updated** 17 hours ago

1.7k

David Moye
Reporter, The Huffington Post

TWITTERCOM/CINNABON

Cinnabon released this tweet hours after Carrie Fisher's death. It was deleted 45 minutes later.

A tweeted tribute to Carrie Fisher by the Cinnabon chain is leaving a bad taste in the mouths of some "Star Wars" fans.

The tweet, which has since been deleted, read, "RIP Carrie Fisher, you'll always have the best buns in the galaxy." The accompanying photo showed a portrait of Princess Leia done in cinnamon and sugar with the company's cinnamon buns in place of the character's trademark hairstyle.

Fisher herself had dubbed the look "cinnamon buns," but that didn't make the day of the actress' death a good time to bring it up. In fact, considering that no good ever comes of using a celebrity's death to promote a product, the reaction from Twitter users was unsurprisingly quick and harsh.

Adrian Crawford
@Crawf33

Follow

off, you must log @Cinnabon

2:11 PM - 27 Dec 2016

35 148

Victoria
@nicholaswlde

Follow

@Cinnabon wtf

1:43 PM - 27 Dec 2016

2 39

Jamie
@jlew8

Follow

.@Cinnabon

1:58 PM - 27 Dec 2016

3 39

Philip Lewis
@Phil_Lewis_

Follow

@Cinnabon
2:12 PM - 27 Dec 2016
8 98

Slegr
@slegrbombs71

Follow

I bet that social media intern at Cinnabon feels pretty good about him/herself right about now
2:12 PM - 27 Dec 2016

David Rudin
@DavidSRudin

Follow

You could say that tweet got Cinnabon into a…sticky situation
2:08 PM - 27 Dec 2016
8 13

Dick Prescock
@DadSelfie

Follow

Cinnabon HQ upon hearing the news of Carrie Fisher's heart attack
"GET STARTED ON THE PRINCESS LEIA CINNABON MURAL... PRONTO!" twitter.com/cinnabon/statu…
2:04 PM - 27 Dec 2016
1

Cinnabon ✓
@Cinnabon

Follow

RIP George Michael, you'll always have the best buns in the business.

dan mentos
@DanMentos

Follow

.@cinnabon what the hell

2:22 PM - 27 Dec 2016

311 1,202

Cinnabon ✓
@Cinnabon

RIP Carrie Fisher, you'll always have the best buns in the galaxy.

Ian Miller
@teen_archer

Follow

rip @Cinnabon social media intern, you were too beautiful to live

2:38 PM - 27 Dec 2016

5 23

Cinnabon has not responded to The Huffington Post about the now-deleted tweet, but posted an apology a few hours later.

The brewing storm is similar to the one that blew up in General Mills' corporate face after Prince died in April. The cereal company put out a tweet featuring the words "Rest in Peace" against a purple backdrop. In place of the dot over

time that there is really no good way for a corporate brand to honor a celebrity's death.

"It's insensitive," Moore said. "It's like they're saying, 'We're going to capitalize on [a celebrity] death so we show up in a search algorithm.'"

UPDATE: This version of the story has been updated to include Cinnabon's apology tweet.

Also on HuffPost

Ghostery blocked Vidible video player.

More: Carrie Fisher

Suggest a correction

Comments

CONVERSATIONS

Advertise RSS Careers FAQ
User Agreement Privacy Comment Policy About Us About Our Ads Contact Us Archive
Copyright © 2016 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

Cinnabon Decided To Use Carrie Fisher's Death To Hawk Its Cinnamon Rolls

Published Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:24PM EST ctvnews.ca

Nice try, eh bud? Canadian pulled over trying to clear snow with Zamboni

In what some are calling the most Canadian thing ever, a Central Saanich man took the winter weather into his own hands.

A man with good intentions decided to try and clear the snow from back roads in B.C. -- with a Zamboni.

Police pulled over a B.C. farmer who was driving a Zamboni Monday night, foiling his attempt to clear the road in front of his house.

The Zamboni was reportedly doing a bad job on the road, moving the snow, but leaving behind a patch of ice.

The farmer was escorted back to his farm near Saanich, B.C., where he keeps the Zamboni.

No charges were laid in what perhaps is the most Canadian traffic stop of the year.

MYNEWS

© 2017

Bell Media All rights reserved.

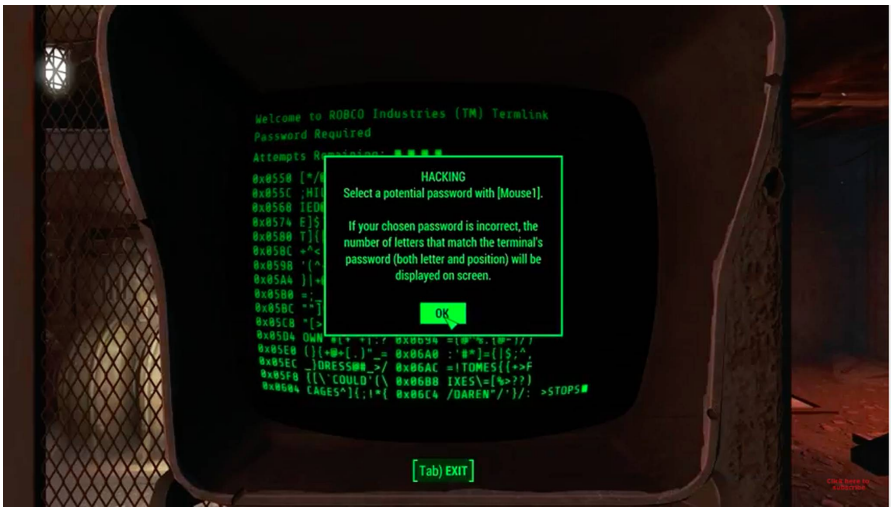
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

CNN explains Russian election hacking with 'Fallout 4' screengrabs

dailydot.com

The Daily Dot

David Covucci —
Jan 3 at 6:15AM | Last updated Jan 3 at 6:25AM



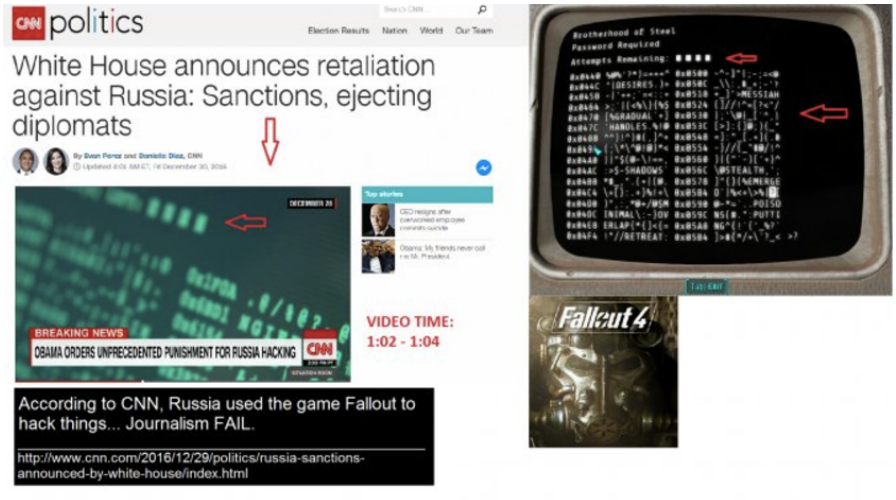
Outside of people who are well-versed in computer code, hacking is a completely nebulous concept. Even the president-elect professed ignorance about the topic.

"The whole age of computer has made it so nobody knows exactly what's going on," Donald Trump recently said.

Which means, if you are a major news network doing a segment on Russian interference in U.S. elections, it doesn't matter what B-roll you use to show a computer terminal hacking into the mainframe. Almost anyone lazily gazing at the screen from their chair in the airport will assume it's the real thing.

But eagle-eyed redditors won't.

Watching a segment on CNN about the ongoing scandal, redditor Poofylicious saw some similarities between the Nmap commands shown by CNN on screen and the popular post-apocalyptic video game *Fallout 4*.



Screengrab via Pootylicious/Reddit

The hacking in the game in no way resembles real-life online sabotage, but it looks the part. And as one redditor pointed out, the options for news networks—when trying to show actual hacking footage—are pretty limited.

"If you want to talk about hacking on a major news network, your choices are either that or a scene from *The Matrix*."

That's not entirely true. There's also this hyper-realistic scene from *Swordfish*.

The *Fallout* footage, however, appears to have been removed from CNN's video.

Screengrab via Kotaku

Trump, meanwhile, has promised to reveal secret information about the hack either today or tomorrow.

H/T Yahoo

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Shopper finds £11,000 cocaine in Nesquik tub – and he's taking drastic action

By Joshua Barrie 10:56, 10 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

A powdery mix up

Spain is an entry point for cocaine (Photo: Getty) Popular with kids The vegetable crisis took a bizarre turn (Photo: AFP/Getty)

A man found £11,000 of cocaine in his Nesquik tub. There, hidden among the sugary chocolate powder, was a 250g packet of the Class A narcotic.

The customer, from Zaragoza in north-east Spain, first noticed a peculiarity with his instant milkshake product when he got home. He saw that the lid of the large tub had already been slightly opened.

The shopper in question hasn't been named, for obvious reasons. We imagine there's an angry drug dealer somewhere in Spain who's now realised his Nesquik mule has been discovered.

Nesquik is a very different powder to cocaine

Nesquik drink

After finding the package, the man called the police, who confirmed the substance as cocaine. In Spain, it's worth an estimated 13,000 euros, according the the *i* paper.

Spain's National Police unit has opened an investigation. Apparently, the Nesquik, made by Nestle, left the factory intact, so it's believed that the milkshake was tampered with at the supermarket.

There's not actually any drugs in Nesquik products

Unfortunately, CCTV footage hasn't allowed police to find any suspects. None were pointing to the Nesquik aisle.

The man is on his own path. Amid the fuss it caused in local media, the he's looking to sue the supermarket where he inadvertently purchased the drugs due to the 'moral damage' he's been caused, as well as concerns drug traffickers might target him. The story went viral in Spain, and he was desperate to remain anonymous.

Lawyer Francisco Javier Acín told newspaper *El Mundo* on Tuesday that his client has suffered a "lack of empathy" over the situation.

Spain is closely tied to Latin America, where cocaine is produced. It makes the country a good point of entry for Europe, and cocaine is often discovered in odd places. Packets have been found inside

pineapples, stuffed into crates of bananas, and this week a large quantity turned up in a box of frozen chickens.

Asparagus coke

View of more than two tons of cocaine hydrochloride seized by the Peruvian police

Last month, two tonnes of cocaine was found stashed inside packs of asparagus in Peru. Around £61,000 of cash was also present in the haul.

Police arrested a Serbian man and four Peruvians suspected of running a smuggling operation from a gourmet food business.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Coed CYO hoops team defies archdiocese order to kick girls out, forfeits season

By Jessica Remo | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com Follow on Twitter on February 12, 2017 at 8:12 AM, updated February 13, 2017 at 6:18 PM

nj.com

CLARK -- On Friday night, after four years of CYO basketball together, the nine boys and two girls on the St. John's 5th grade team had to make a decision: Play without the girls or give up the rest of the season.

Two weeks prior, the team was told by the league's director that they should never have played as a coed team and the girls would not be allowed to play on the team for the last two games of the season. Parents said the team's record was wiped, too, since the girls had played in those games "illegally."

But no one expected what was coming next: The boys, hearing the news, decided they simply would not play ball without their girl teammates.

After the team and their opponents from St. Bartholomew the Apostle in Scotch Plains suited up for the game at the St. John's gym, refs said they had been instructed by the league director, Rich Donovan, not to work if the girls played.

For 15 minutes, there was a stalemate as the teams, coaches and officials couldn't come to an agreement about what should happen next. Couldn't the St. Bart's players just play an unofficial game, with the girls included, and collect a win due to the "official" game being forfeited? Would playing cause them any repercussions from the league?

"One parent told me it's my decision (whether the girls play), but I said no way, I'm not making this decision for 11 10-year-olds," says St. John's coach Rob Martel.

And so even though they were sure of what the answer would be, the parents posed the question to the kids again.

"Is your decision to play the game without the two young ladies on the team, or do you want to stay as a team as you have all year?" asked parent Matthew Dohn. "Show of hands for play as a team?"

Eleven hands shot up in unison. No one raised a hand when asked the alternative.

Assistant coach Keisha Martel, who is also the mom of one of the girls, Kayla Martel, reminded the team of the consequences. They had been told that playing the girls would mean the rest of the season would be forfeited.

"But if the girls play, this will be the end of your season. You won't play in the playoffs," she warned.

"It doesn't matter," one boy replied and others echoed, before the team began to chant, "Unity!"

In the crowd, supporters cheered along. Several parents began to cry.

"Pride. Just pure pride," answered parent Denise Laskody through tears when asked what she thought of the vote. "These kids are doing the right thing. We don't have to tell them what to do. They just know. It's amazing."

The refs wouldn't take the court. The St. Bart's team, who had already warmed up, exited the gym. Some St. Bart's parents, hearing about the drama, told St. John's parents they were sorry and that they would have loved to have played, but it was out of their hands. The St. Bart's coach would not comment for this story.

Still, the St. John's team had decided, come what may, they were playing a game of basketball Friday night. Half of the St. John's players wore navy blue T-shirts parents had ordered with "#unitygames" emblazoned on the fronts. They played against the other half of their team, girls included. Two older girls from other St. John's teams volunteered as refs. With big smiles, the team took to the court for the last time together.

The decision to remove the girls came two weeks ago, after a complaint was filed when St. John's played St. Theresa's, a few miles away in Kenilworth. There, another crusade is being waged - the family of a 7th grade girl, Sydney Phillips, sued after the school wouldn't allow her to play for its boys basketball team. Phillips and her sister were expelled from the school after the suit, but on Feb. 3, an appeals court judge ruled they must be allowed to return to school.

Jim Goodness, spokesman for the archdiocese of Newark, said rules specifically state the teams should be boys or girls only, and said St. John's athletic director, Jack Cajuste, admitted he made an error in allowing the team to exist this way for the past four years.

Cajuste, when approached at the game on Friday, declined to comment and demanded NJ Advance Media staff leave the gym, but then allowed reporters to remain so long as we did not take any more photos inside the gym.

Before eating pizza at a party in the school's teacher's lounge after the game, one of the boys led the prayer.

"We are all here today supporting the girls and having this fun game," he said. "It's been a great season and it's been fun having all you guys play basketball. Amen."

One of the girls, Kayla Martel, told NJ Advance Media she knows her teammates have her back.

"It has a big impact on me because it shows that they care. I'm part of them just as they're part of me and they don't want to break that bond just like I don't want to break that bond," Kayla Martel said. "I think the rules are ridiculous."

It seemed the battle could still be won at a point: Seeing the boys' resolve, parents took up the fight and even had St. John's pastor, Rev. Robert G. McBride, hand-deliver a letter to the archdiocese's newly installed cardinal, Joseph W. Tobin.

The parents say Tobin initially took their side, saying the girls could at least finish out their season, but days later, he rescinded his decision, citing legal issues, they say.

"My understanding is there were conversations, but at the end of day the vicar general notified everyone that the situation needs to remain the way it was discussed with them," Goodness said of Tobin's decision.

Alexandra Costa, a mother of one of the boys on the team also wrote to the league director, relaying her experience playing as a girl on a boys soccer team.

"I learned to play tougher and earn my keep and it prepared me for life in a special way for which I am extremely grateful. ... This glass ceiling that you are trying to replace was shattered over 25 years ago. Let's not go back in time. Rest assured that I am willing to stand behind these girls as someone did for me many years ago. Not to mention, it's the right thing to do as Catholics. They are 10-year-old children. They have a lifetime of disappointments ahead of them; let's not create an unnecessary one now."

In a reply to Costa's email, Donovan said he understood her frustration and anger, but the facts are their roster is illegal per league guidelines, it was reported by another program and the proper protocols must now be followed. Donovan did not respond to a request for comments on the decision.

In league rules obtained by NJ Advance Media, there is no mention of whether the teams in the St. John's team's division - the JV black league - can or cannot be coed, though other divisions are mentioned as strictly boys or girls teams.

The girls have played with the boys for this long because there were not enough interested girls their same age to form a separate team, the parents say. In the Kenilworth case, the Phillips are facing the same issue of a lack of interest and no team for their daughter to join other than the boys team. When told about the boys sticking up for the girls at St. John's, Scott Phillips said "that's what teamwork is all about."

"That team should be commended, the coaches should be commended and the parents should be commend for raising kids like that," he said when reached Friday.

And what will happen next year? If the girls can't get enough girls their age to play, they would be without a team or forced to play for another parish in the league, parents said. But they cannot continue with the boys they've always played with.

"They're kids and all they wanted to do was play," said Rob Martel. "This is adults that couldn't figure out how to let the kids play two more games. This isn't the WNBA or NBA. ... They're just trying to get better, and I think they got better today."

Jessica Remo may be reached at jremo@njadvancemedia.com. Follow her on Twitter @JessicaRemoNJ. Find NJ.com on Facebook.

nj.com

© 2017 New Jersey On-Line LLC. All rights reserved (About Us).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of New Jersey On-Line LLC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Competitors fail to break world haggis hurling record

13:12 EST, 29 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com
MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Competitors fail to break world haggis hurling record (but with the prize a year's supply of haggis, maybe that's for the best)

- **A year's supply of haggis was on offer to anyone who could surpass the current world record for haggis hurling**
- **The present World Record for Haggis Hurling was set at 217 feet by Lorne Coltart at the Milngavie Highland Games on 11 June 2011**
- **There were 83 contestants who entered the event with the age range from as low as four years old up to 75 years old**
- **The winner on the day was Josh Noel who threw at a distance of 145 feet.**

By Kelly Mclaughlin For Mailonline

The World Championships of haggis hurling was held on Sunday at the 18th Century home of Robert Burns - but no one won the top prize of a year's supply of the dish.

The prize was on offer to anyone who could surpass the current world record but unfortunately no one was successful.

The present World Record for Haggis Hurling was set at 217 feet by Lorne Coltart at the Milngavie Highland Games on 11 June 2011, beating Allan Pettigrew's 180 feet record which had stood for over 20 years.

Modern Haggis Hurling is judged on the basis of distance and accuracy of the hurl.

Competitor Bill Boyd in Robert Burns era costume prepares to throw a haggis during the 2017 World Haggis Hurling Championships in Ellisland Farm, Dumfries and Galloway

The Haggis Hurling world championships are held every year around the time of Robert Burns birthday, usually in his former home town of Alloway, 40 miles from Glasgow on the south west coast of Scotland

A year's supply of haggis was on offer to anyone who could surpass the current world record for haggis hurling

Gary McLay of Ayr throws a haggis during the 2017 World Haggis Hurling Championships in Ellisland Farm, Dumfries and Galloway

Any split or burst haggis is immediately disqualified, as the haggis must be fit to eat after landing.

There were 83 contestants who entered the event with the age range from as low as four years old up to 75 years old.

The winner on the day was Josh Noel who threw at a distance of 145 feet.

For the past five years the contest was held in the bard's hometown of Alloway, South Ayrshire, but this year it was moved to Ellisland Farm, Dumfries and Galloway.

There were 83 contestants who entered the event with the age range from as low as four years old up to 75 years old

For the past five years the contest was held in the bard's hometown of Alloway, South Ayrshire, but this year it was moved to Ellisland Farm, Dumfries and Galloway. Pictured above, Burns Cottage in Aolloway

Anne Pearson (left) and another competitor take part in the haggis hurling competition on Sunday

A woman throws a haggis underhand in hopes of winning the haggis hurling competition on Sunday

This is the site where two of Robert Burns' children were born and where he got married.

It is also where he wrote Auld Lang Syne, Tam O'Shanter and Ae Fond Kiss.

Stuart Cochrane organised the event which used 20 haggis in the competition from local butchers Mogerlys of Dumfries.

He said: 'It brings back an old Scottish custom that hasn't been seen since about 1700 and then having a fun contest out in the fresh air and adding it in with Burns season and it's just great fun.

Any split or burst haggis is immediately disqualified, as the haggis must be fit to eat after landing. Pictured above, competitors take their turns hurling haggis

Spectators look on as another man takes his turn at hurling a haggis in hopes of breaking the world record

Competitors used 20 haggis in the competition on Sunday from local butchers Mogerlys of Dumfries

'I had a shot, I thought it was only fair, and my throw managed to reach 136 feet which I thought was very good but I have been doing this since 2009.

'I've ran every other championship going to try and beat the world record.

'You have to have a very good sense of balance and be able to pivot quite far so that when you swing your hips and release then it's got the most momentum.

'You want the haggis to skim through the air rather than skim to prevent it from splitting on the ground.'

An event organiser said that competitors (one pictured above) have to have a 'very good sense of balance'

An officiator uses a tape measure to see how far a haggis had been thrown during the haggis hurling competition

Comments (31)

The comments below have not been moderated.

Shamrock2014, Bardouhah, Fiji, about 2 hours ago

Is it that terrible to eat? Would you imagine such a competition with foie gras?

RaveLetterman, Henderson, United States, about 3 hours ago

I believe hurling was the original intended use for haggis, the first attempt at biological weapons.

Jerry Curls, LA, United States, about 5 hours ago

I tried haggis and I hurled my entire stomach's contents.

perlcat, Omaha, United States, about 6 hours ago

I could probably hurl haggis a long, long ways, but I'd have to eat it first.

I miss old England, Halapa, United States, about 6 hours ago

Only a truly dedicated drunk could create such a meal. I'll stick to port tenderloin and fries.

Hai Dozo, Bronx, United States, about 7 hours ago

Haggis looks good with some hot sauce.

Torunna, Kattegat, Norway, about 8 hours ago

I'd never had it. would love to try it

Witness Statement, Anytown, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Don't.

Maj General Mustard, Ex B Battery Ist Regt RHA, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Why not see how far you can throw Sturgeon.

steveh2731, MALVERN, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Eating haggis and playing the bagpipes in public should both be declared as crimes against humanity and are the main reasons why I would support Scotland leaving the UK.

knotcool, greenock, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Yummy!

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Cops: Drunk patron pulled toy gun; employee comes back with real gun ajc.com

An alleged drunk patron said he “had something” for the manager and security guard that escorted him out of a restaurant, but his toy gun was no match for the real one an employee pulled on him, authorities said.

According to Brookhaven police, the man was “extremely intoxicated” **at about 3 a.m. Sunday at the Acapulco Tropical on Buford Highway** and fell to the ground.

The manager and a security guard escorted him out, but that didn’t seem to please the patron.

“Eventually, the male subject was heard saying that he ‘had something’ for the employees as he exited the business,” Brookhaven police spokesman Maj. Brandon Gurley said.

The man came back to the restaurant with what was later found to be a toy gun, Gurley said.

But before the patron could act, an employee grabbed his own gun, confronted the man as he opened the front door and told him not to continue, police said.

“The employee fired several rounds at the armed person causing (him) to retreat and leave the scene in a white truck,” Gurley said.

About 5:30 a.m., the man was found at the Avenue at 85 apartment complex after he called 911 about being shot in his shoulder and wrist. The toy gun was also found at the apartment.

The patron remains in a local hospital, Gurley said. No charges have been filed in the case and no names have been released.

The investigation is ongoing.

© 2017 Cox Media Group. By using this website, you accept the terms of our Visitor Agreement and Privacy Policy, and understand your options regarding Ad Choices. Learn about careers at Cox Media Group.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Oklahoma City firefighters rescue cow stuck in swimming pool

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 16, 2017

In this Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, provided by the Oklahoma City Fire Department, firefighters hoist a cow out of a swimming pool outside a home in Oklahoma City. A homeowner reported hearing some sort of “snorting” coming from his swimming pool area and emergency responders arrived and discovered a hole in the swimming pool’s liner and a cow trapped in the water. (Mike Seeley/Oklahoma City Fire Department via AP)

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Think it's hard for firefighters to rescue a cat in a tree? Try a cow in a swimming pool.

Firefighters in Oklahoma City were summoned Sunday morning after a homeowner reported hearing some sort of "snorting" coming from his swimming pool area. Emergency responders arrived and discovered a hole in the swimming pool's liner and a cow trapped in the water.

Oklahoma City Fire Department Battalion Chief Benny Fulkerson says firefighters used their pumps to remove about 5 feet of water from the pool so the cow wouldn't experience hypothermia. Crews then brought in a wrecker to hoist the nearly 1,500-pound animal from the pool and to safety.

Fulkerson says the cow appeared to be uninjured after its ordeal.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Michigan couple wake to coyotes crashing through window

upi.com

By Ben Hooper | Jan. 20, 2017 at 10:07 AM

A coyote is removed from John and Joyce Osborne's Washington Township, Mich., home after crashing through a basement window. Screenshot: WXYZ-TV

Jan. 20 (UPI) -- A Michigan couple were awakened late at night by the noisy entrance of a pair of unusual home invaders -- coyotes.

John and Joyce Osborne said they woke late Sunday night to a loud noise that John identified as glass breaking somewhere in their Washington Township home.

John Osborne, 71, said he checked the house for broken windows and eventually found a large, ground-level window was broken in the couple's finished basement.

"There was glass all over the place," he told the Macomb Daily.

He said he approached a toppled artificial tree near the window and spotted "a big fuzzy thing" curled up next to it.

Osborne said the creature looked like a large fox.

"I got out of there fast," he said.

Police and animal control officers arrived at the home and relocated the coyote to the nearby Glacier Club golf course.

Osborne said he went back into the basement and was shocked to see a second coyote.

The animal control officers were summoned back to the home and released the second coyote in the same place.

The couple said the intruders left a big mess behind.

"They must have hit the [window] like an explosion. There was glass up the hallway, glass all over the place," John Osborn said.

Macomb County Chief Animal Control Officer Jeff Randazzo said the coyotes did not seem to be seriously injured.

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

UK cat killer could be doing it for sexual kicks

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukSunday 22 Jan 2017 11:36 am

Mimi was found decapitated in Surrey (Picture: Wessex)

A serial cat killer who dismembers his victims may be doing it for a sexual kick, it has been revealed.

Previously known as the Croydon cat killer because of the proximity to the South London town of the earlier victims, another two headless bodies have been found in Surrey.

They were discovered within 24 hours of one another and the death toll is now estimated to be well over 200.

Paddy Ykiyo was one of the cats found dead (Picture: Collect) Amber Amber Leo Leo

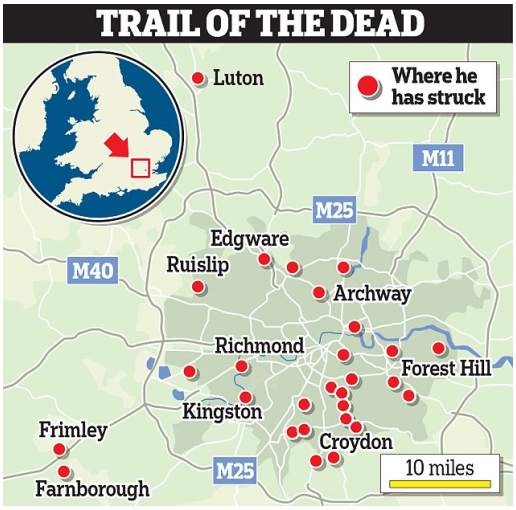
The South Norwood Animal Rescue and Liberty Charity, which collects the corpses, has noticed patterns and says that he's now killing three or four a week.

Tony Jenkins, co-founder of the group, said: 'We think he gets off on putting the animals on display, preferably under the bedroom windows.

'Worryingly, we've even had a few put next to school playgrounds where little children would be.

'It looks like he kills them with blunt force trauma, waits for half an hour for the blood to stop circulating then cuts their heads off.'

Some of the many places where the cat killer struck



Paddy Ykiyo was one of the cats found dead (Picture: Collect) Amber Amber Leo Leo

Many of the cuts are 'surgical' but some are 'more rushed' and it is possible that the cat killer has even performed some of the beheadings on the owners' property.

He added: 'We started our investigation in September 2015. Since then we've collected about 180 bodies, all with similar wounds – their head or tail cut off, or both, some have had their front paws or back paws cut off, some have literally been cut in half.'

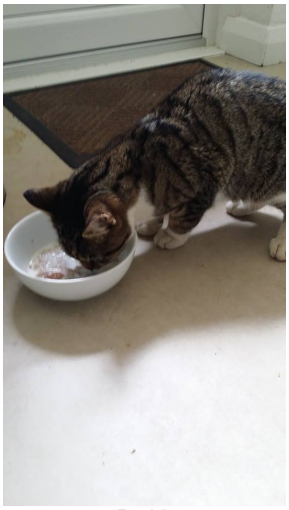
Speaking about the recent discoveries, the charity said 'We attended the scene of a cat found dead in Godalming and his injuries were an exact match to those seen on other victims of the M25 animal killer.

'We have brought his body back to London for post-mortem. We would like to thank his family for allowing us to do this. Our thoughts are with them tonight. May he rest in peace.'

The dead cats all bear the same hallmark – a combination of decapitation, removal of the tail or removal of paws. It is believed that these could be some kind of trophy for the killer.

Mr Jenkins said vets who had examined the corpses found they were all killed the same way.

'They were killed with blunt force trauma and then cut up and mutilated with a knife – unless there's any animal you know that can handle a knife, it's a human.'



Paddy

Ykiyo was one of the cats found dead (Picture: Collect)

The probe began after headless cats were found in Croydon, Streatham, Mitcham Common, Sutton, Charlton, Peckham and Finchley. But now it is a nationwide problem.

A vet found raw chicken in the stomachs of a number of the cats, suggesting the killer was luring them to their deaths.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

Amber

Amber

Leo

Leo

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Doubtful ~ Sharon Hill

Science, Sensibility and Practical Skepticism

CRYPTOZOOLOGY / PARANORMAL CULTURE

Cryptid capers: The Iceman, Scooby Doo, and those meddling copyright holders

- JANUARY 3, 2017JANUARY 3, 2017
- IDOUBTIT

Dr. Darren Naish has a new post out on the Minnesota Iceman (https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/tetrapod-zoology/the-strange-case-of-the-minnesota-iceman/). It's adapted from his book *Hunting Monsters* which is soon to be out in hard copy (already in electronic format). Good news! However, the cryptozoological go-hards don't generally like the scholarly-type books which often carry a more skeptical tone. They tend to go for the anecdotal collections that have few or poor references and that promote the mystery beasts as real. So books like this one from Darren, along with Radford's *Tracking the Chupacabra*, Regal's *Searching for Sasquatch* and Loxton and Prothero's *Abominable Science* (among others) are deliberately ignored, or trashed by a few surly self-styled cryptozoological experts (http://www.skepticblog.org/2013/09/05/bigfoot-times-denounces-abominable-science/) (who wouldn't even read the entire book). It makes me think that many in the field don't want to do the work needed to actually document the cases well and fit them into the literature, or they just want to promote their preferred beliefs and the truth doesn't matter as much. They also have a chip on their shoulder about those who do the book work, so to speak, a necessary academic exercise, as opposed to seeking a mystery creature out in the woods who wins the award for Hide and Seek Champion (http://knowyourmeme.com/photos/1007445-the-hide-and-seek-champion).

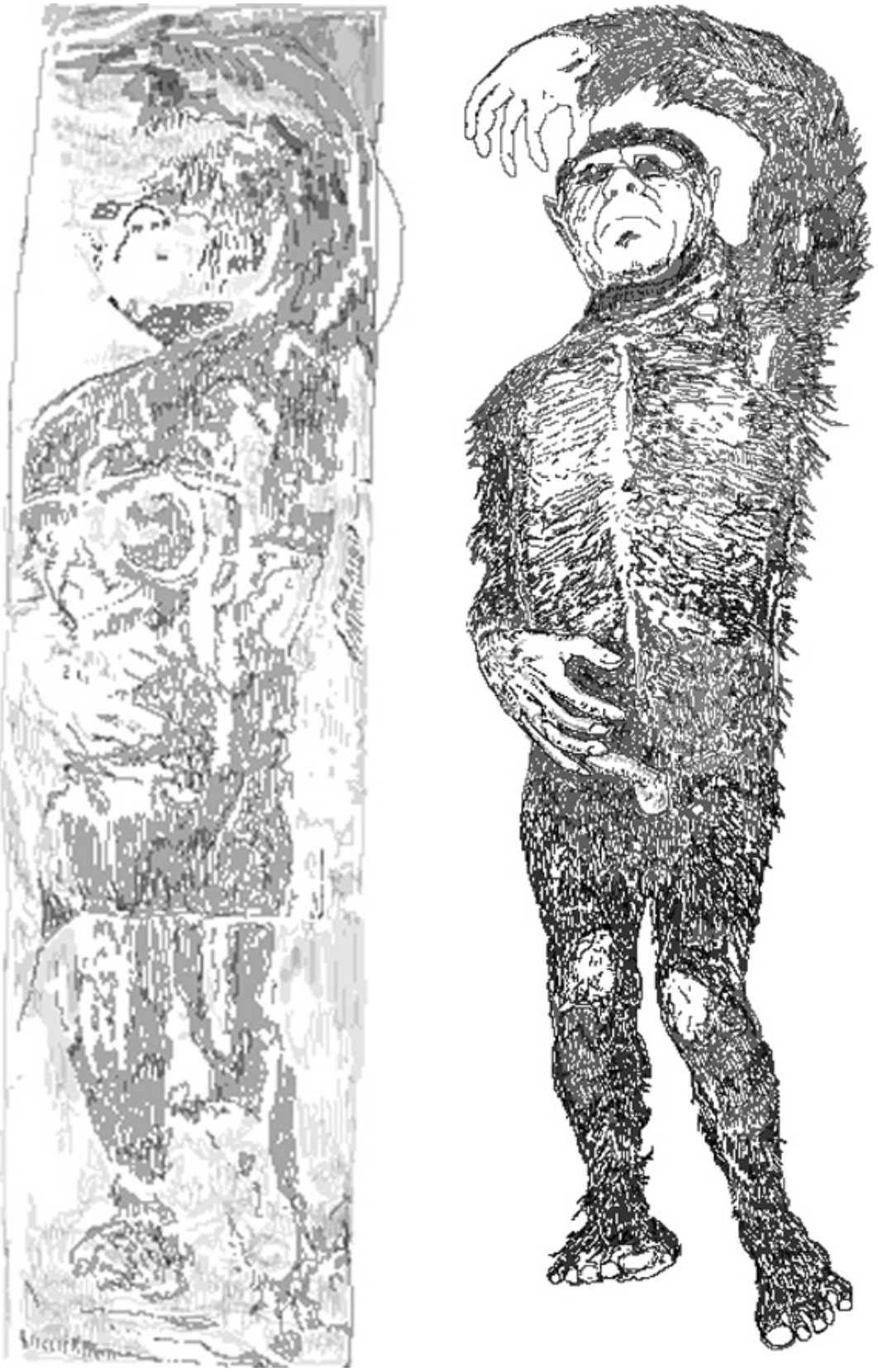
Speaking of the truth, the Iceman's origin is cloudy. The owner, Frank Hansen did not have a version that he stuck to. Darren relates five different origin stories:

- Discovered in a block of ice floating in the sea near Siberia
- Found by a Japanese whaling ship found the body.
- Found in a deep-freeze facility in Hong Kong
- Shot by hunters in Minnesota.*
- Shot in Vietnam and flown to the United States in a body bag.

Whenever I hear these origin stories, I can't help but think how the writers for *Scooby Doo* used the Iceman story for inspiration for this episode (http://scoobydoo.wikia.com/wiki/Scooby's_Night_with_a_Frozen_Fright). (Take a trip back in time and watch the whole episode here (http://www.toon.is/scooby-doo-2x03-scoobys-night-with-a-frozen-fright_b9ae7d858.html).)

The most parsimonious explanation was that the Iceman was a hoax, a latex form encased in ice. But it certainly was a rather successful hoax in terms of money for the owners, a lasting pop cultural impression of what ancient humans were thought to look like, and success in fooling the leading cryptid voices of the time, Heuvelmans and Sanderson. Post-Iceman, the reputation of these two, and cryptozoology in general, suffered. But Darren notes another curious sidenote to the Iceman which applies to most cryptids as well – the copyrighting of images.

> *…a startling and frustrating fact about this case is that none of the pictures famously associated with it are available free, under a creative commons licence, online… everything is protected by copyright. I've noticed this about images pertaining to bigfoot as well; there is strikingly little philanthropy going on as goes image sharing and so on. I've therefore created some Minnesota Iceman images of my own and am releasing them.*



The Minnesota Iceman. Drawings by Darren Naish. Public domain.

This is another indication that the field is tainted by dollar signs and lacks perhaps the larger scientific-minded goal to share information with other experts in order to get the best answer to what is really going on. This closed-group aspect to cryptozoology keeps it on the fringes of science. Its general lack of

scholarship, aversion to critical thinking, and sometimes very rude response to skeptical opinions will keep it there. Fortunately, there is some good stuff out there to dig into and I recommend that you do. It's a fascinating mix of biology, folklore, and sociology.

I strongly suggest you get these books! Here are the links:

- Tracking the Chupacabra (http://amzn.to/2hNnHxd)
- Searching for Sasquatch (http://amzn.to/2iEaAxZ) (Contains lots of info on Heuvelmans and Sanderson)
- Abominable Science (http://amzn.to/2i5RYna)
- Hunting Monsters (Kindle) (http://amzn.to/2iE30Uh)

——-

Post script

*Busterggi informed me of another "origin" story I missed. He'd heard that "some poor country gal was in danger of being ravished by the monster when she shot it in defense of her virginity". Good one!

 COPYRIGHT IMAGES, CRYPTOZOOLOGIST, CRYPTOZOOLOGY, DARREN NAISH, FRANK HANSEN, HOAX, MAKE MONEY OFF CRYPTOZOOLOGY, MINNESOTA ICEMAN, MONEY

BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

Dancing cockroaches and drifter Santas: A surprisingly interesting gallery of photos from Canadian Christmases past

nationalpost.com

Tristin Hopper| December 24, 2016 | Last Updated: Dec 25 9:42 AM ET

As the stress of December slowly morphs into a uneasy Yuletide haze of caloric shock and tolerating relatives, what better time to dive into Canada's rich offering of public domain photographs to reflect on Christmases past? But not to worry; we left out all the boring photographs of staid Torontonians raising toasts or whatever. Below, find a gallery documenting the utter Yuletide madness of how a frozen country celebrates Christmas.

ATTACK OF THE CLOWN BARBERS

Although we now call the police at the first sign of a "creepy clown," Canadians once had a much higher tolerance for unsettling images. This is a Christmas card from about 100 years ago depicting a Tarantino-esque scene of jester torture. The unnamed victim is being taunted with comically large blades and having his face slathered with toxic paste. In a caption that seems vaguely threatening, the card reads "May you keep up your Heart under all trials this festive Season."

SANTA NEEDS A DRINK

Before Coca-Cola solidified our modern image of a red-suited Santa Claus, depictions of Father Christmas were less "Jolly Old Elf" and more "Mysterious Drifter." The particular image, originally published in the Ottawa Free Press, depicts a Mr. D. Hill in full Saint Nicholas garb as he arrives for the 1876 Grand Fancy Ball hosted by the Governor General of Canada. Oddly, the ball took place in February.

"SILENT NIGHT THIS!"

Plenty has been written about the 1914 Christmas truce in which French, British and German troops fighting the First World War laid down their arms to sing carols and exchange gifts. But by the time the Canadian Expeditionary Force showed up in Europe, allied forces were under strict orders to shoot up even the most festive German yuletide overtures. Which explains this photo from Christmas 1916, in which Canadian troops load a field gun with a shell reading "A busting time this Christmas. 1916."

WE MADE IT ALL BY OURSELVES

For a brief period in the 1970s, the decision was made to have children use crayons to design Canada's Christmas stamps. The effect was charming, even if foreign nations receiving Canadian mail may have gotten the impression that Canadians had no idea how to draw.

PELT THE DANDY

This image is from Christmas, 1891 in Ottawa. Two uptight dandies pose with their monocles and bow ties while two other men (one of whom looks remarkably like Harrison Ford) prepare to pelt them with snowballs. Some things never change. Exactly 125 years later, and Canada's urge to pelt bow-tied monocle-wearers with frozen missiles remains as strong as ever.

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

Another entry from Canada's vast national catalogue of baffling Christmas cards. Like the one above, this one was preserved by the prolific philatelist Kenneth Rowe, who died in 2014. It has a simple message: "May Christmas be merry." And truly, is there anything merrier than wanton interspecies dancing set to the beat of a fly playing a tambourine?

OPERATION CLAUS

Somewhere in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there may still be a village who knows Santa Claus primarily as a jeep-mounted civilian military liaison. Starting in 1960, Canada began dispatching peacekeepers to the Congo in an attempt to stabilize the region. And, as Canadians have done in almost all our foreign missions, when Christmas came around someone cobbled together a Santa suit to go hand out presents to children.

WHY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD SMELLED LIKE HAIRSPRAY

Just in case future historians weren't absolutely sure this image came from the 1960s, the unidentified woman in this 1962 photo obliged them by wearing a bouffant hairstyle. This is a typical post office showing the sheer tonnage of mail generated in an era when passing on Christmas greetings was far more complex than a quick December 25 text message of "mry xmas" to one's siblings.

AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A REPULSE BAY PARTY

This is one of several images in Canada's federal archives documenting what appears to be one of the most amazing Christmas parties in Canadian history. It took place in Repulse Bay (what is now Naujaat, Nunavut) and there was candy, masks, dog sled tournaments, cigar smoking contests and, of course, an extremely enthusiastic Athanasi Ulikattaq, pictured here.

"CHRISTMAS SHOPPING"

The G-rated caption for this November, 1945 image from Copenhagen, Denmark is "Canadian soldiers shopping for Christmas presents." But, of course, it clearly shows three men doing very badly to conceal their roving eyes — even when an officer is clearly pointing a camera at them. Unlike a lot of photos in

this gallery, we actually have these guys' names. From left to right (and in ascending order of gawkiness): D.L. Amos, D.L. Duncan and C.C. Bizzo.

PUT A BIRD ON IT.

"Christmas comes but once a year, so we share our cake and ditch our fear" reads this custom Christmas card made by Vancouver's Charles E. Jones. This is one of many images showing Jones with birds all over his face, which is how he earned the nickname "Birdman of Vancouver." He also became mayor in 1947.

NEWBIES

This shows the 1959 equivalent of that time when Justin Trudeau hugged a bunch of incoming Syrian refugees. Canadian officials did not hug strangers back then, but they were known to stoically provide them with Christmas presents. This shows the Halifax arrival of refugees on Christmas Eve, 1959. With populations around the world being uprooted in the late 1950s, it's hard to know where these arrivals come from, but it is known that they were "tubercular," and thus had trouble finding any country who would accept them.

THE PUDDING RECIPE UPON WHICH THE SUN NEVER SETS

The British Empire gets a lot of flack these days, but it is often forgotten just how much the quality of British pudding improved as a result of them taking over the world. A century ago, Canadians were regularly bombarded by ads from something called the Empire Marketing Board, a body whose sole job was to convince us to buy our groceries exclusively from other countries loyal to the king. Thus, in the late 1920s they prepared this epic recipe that could be prepared without risk of contamination from scheming republicans in France or the United States. Taste this mashup of dried fruit and booze, and you'll apparently taste the glory of Britannia.

• *Email: thopper@nationalpost.com* | Twitter:

© 2016 National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

THE EMPIRE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

according to the recipe supplied by the King's Chef Mr. CEDARD with Their Majesties' Gracious Consent

1 lb	Currants	Australia
1 lb	Sultanas	Australia or South Africa
1 lb	Stoned Raisins	Australia or South Africa
5 ozs	Minced Apple	United Kingdom or Canada
1 lb	Bread Crumbs	United Kingdom
1 lb	Beef Suet	United Kingdom
6 ozs	Cut Candied Peel	South Africa
8 ozs	Flour	United Kingdom
8 ozs	Demerara Sugar	British West Indies or British Guiana
5	Eggs	United Kingdom or Irish Free State
½ oz	Ground Cinnamon	India or Ceylon
¼ oz	Ground Cloves	Zanzibar
¼ oz	Ground Nutmegs	British West Indies
¼ teaspoon	Pudding Spice	India or British West Indies
¼ gill	Brandy	Australia S.Africa Cyprus or Palestine
¼ gill	Rum	Jamaica or British Guiana
1 pint	Beer	England Wales Scotland or Ireland

WRITE TO THE EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD, WESTMINSTER, FOR A FREE BOOKLET ON EMPIRE CHRISTMAS FARE GIVING THIS AND OTHER RECIPES.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Daredevil horses walk through fire in honor of Saint Anthony

aol.com

Jan 17th 2017 10:21AM

In honor of Saint Anthony the Abbot, one Spanish village has a controversial way of celebrating the patron Saint of domestic animals: riding them through fire.

Every year the village of San Bartolome de los Pinares builds large bonfires for the event they call Las Luminarias. The annual festival is meant to purify the horse and protect them for the year ahead.

As many would guess, the treatment of the animals has been the brunt of great scrutiny from animal rights activists. Juan Ignacio Codina, who represents the Observatory of Justice and Animal Defense, told the International Business Times : "There is no logic in forcing these animals into a stressful situation against their own nature. In the midst of the 21st century, this is something from a bygone era. There is no superstition or belief that should justify an act of such cruelty."

The town claims that veterinarians had checked the animals and could not fine a single injury or burn on the horses. While this may be true many from the village have expressed an interest in scaling down the festival and ridding the celebration of large fires. Some have suggested that the jumping of the horses should also be put to rest since the original ceremony only required that the animals walk around the fire.

While it's great news that none of the animals were harmed in the fire, the terrifying images from the festival are sure to stick with many.

© 2017 AOL Inc.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Dead' man opens eyes in coffin during funeral as burial looms

By Patrick Lion 14:30, 12 JAN 2017 Updated 14:33, 12 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

'Dead' man opens his eyes and 'comes back to life' as his coffin is about to be buried

The pensioner was really just weak and has spent the days since his "resurrection" eating porridge

A "dead" elderly man has shocked his family when he sat up in his coffin during the funeral and asked them what was going on.

The pensioner, 75, had "stopped breathing" and had "cold feet and hands" when he was believed dead by his son, Huang Mingquan, and around a dozen other relatives.

He was already extremely weak to begin with and his family apparently thought he had finally passed away.

They were stunned when, eight hours into the man's funeral service, he opened the lid of the wooden coffin, sat up, and asked his children: "What's happening? Are you preparing my funeral?"

Woman, 82, 'comes back from the dead' after snake bite 40 years ago returning home to shocked family

He had seen the wreaths, ornaments, banners, as well as the gathering of relatives who had apparently all arrived to mourn his death.

The process would have continued for the next few days and carried on after his coffin had been put in the ground.

The man's kids rushed over to lift their old dad from the coffin and put him back on to his bed, apologising for the awkward mix-up.

The pensioner is still weak and not eating much.

He has now spent the past two days since "coming back from the dead" lying in bed and eating porridge.

The case occurred in Junlian County, in south-western China's Sichuan Province.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Man killed neighbour by stuffing potato in his gas chimney

metro.co.uk

Man killed neighbour by stuffing potato into gas flue and sealed doors with superglue

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukMonday 6 Feb 2017 1:24 pm

Man killed neighbour by stuffing potato in his gas chimney

Daniel Burgess has been jailed (Picture: Police handout)

A man has been jailed for killing his disabled neighbour using a potato to suffocate him by blocking his gas supply.

Daniel Burgess put the potato into the gas flue of Michael Horner's House on Christmas Day to sabotage his heating and superglued the locks on his doors.

A court heard that Burgess struck out of revenge because he wrongly believed Mr Horner, 48, had stolen his pre-paid gas cards meaning he had no heat in his home in Newlyn, Cornwall, over Christmas 2015.

He wanted his neighbour to suffer in the same way that he had, but a fault in his boiler meant the automatic fail safe system did not work and he was killed by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Police found Mr Horner dead on his living room floor wearing just underpants and with the heating turned up to 60°C.

A general view of Exeter Crown Court in Exeter, Devon. Credit: PA

Details of the case were heard at Exeter Crown Court (Picture: PA)

Tests showed that the fumes would have become fatal in his kitchen within 14 minutes of the boiler being switched on, with the carbon monoxide spreading to other room shortly afterwards.

Burgess, 38, admitted manslaughter and was jailed for two years and eight months by Judge Geoffrey Mercer at Exeter Crown Court.

He told him: 'You accept your unlawful and dangerous act in interfering with the flue of Mr Horner's boiler in the way you did caused his death. He had serious health issues and you knew of his disability and vulnerability.

'Mr Horner was your neighbour and had been your friend but you had fallen out and you acted to get your own back against a perceived grievance that he was the cause of the loss of your heating.

'You did what you did deliberately. You went to considerable lengths and you knew what you were doing. Of crucial importance is that you had no intention of doing any physical harm.

'Your plan was simply to stop his boiler from working and make him cold. I accept your remorse is genuine and your culpability is at the lower end.'

Prosecutor Paul Dunkels said there was a background of ill feeling with accusations of theft and a previous confrontation at a bus stop.

Mr Horner suffered from Huntingdon's Disease and heart problems, both of which restricted his mobility.

He returned home after visiting friends for Christmas dinner in 2015 to find his flat was cold because the gas was turned off at the outside meter.

He turned it on again but when he woke up on Boxing Day it had been turned off again and he was trapped inside because all his locks had been superglued and filled with foam.

Police freed him and visited Burgess. They found dents in the communal wall where he had hit it with a hammer and warned him to leave Mr Horner alone.

A friend alerted the police on December 29 and Mr Horner was found dead in his living room. The true cause only emerged when police found the flue blocked by a large potato and expanding foam.

Traces of foam were found on Burgess's clothing, his fingerprints on an empty can in his garden, and a partial DNA match on the potato.

Mr Dunkels said a safety device should have made the boiler cut out rather than carry on pumping out carbon monoxide but a cap had been removed.

Miss Kate Brunner, QC, defending, said Burgess suffers from paranoid schizophrenia which led him to blame his neighbour for the theft of his gas cards.

She said: 'He wants to express his very deep regret. He is profoundly sorry. His intention was to stop the boiler working and that is what would have happened but for the tragic coincidence of the fault.

'He did not intend or foresee any harm. He could not perceive the boiler's safety system would fail. His mental illness may go some way to explaining his bizarre actions.'

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Deer defense! Man fights speeding ticket with novel argument

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 27, 2017

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts man fighting a speeding ticket in court had a unique explanation — the officer's radar gun may have picked up a deer.

The Newburyport Daily News (http://bit.ly/2jmJV53) reports that Dennis Sayers, of Haverhill (HAY'-vruhl), was clocked going 40 mph in 30 mph zone in West Newbury in November.

He got a $105 ticket.

He appealed in court on Thursday, asking Officer Royster Johnson if he was 100 percent sure his radar captured Sayers' speed or the speed of a deer that could have been in the vicinity.

When confronted by the skeptical judge, Sayers replied that anything was possible.

The fine was upheld.

Deer, by the way, can run approximately 30 mph.

___

Information from: The Daily News of Newburyport (Mass.), http://www.newburyportnews.com

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

In world first, Denmark to name a 'digital ambassador'

thelocal.dk

The Local
news.denmark@thelocal.com
27 January 2017
10:20 CET+01:00
techdiplomacygoogleapplefacebooksamuelsen

Saying that tech giants like Google and Apple now have more influence than many countries, Denmark will become the first nation in the world to appoint a so-called digital ambassador.
Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen revealed the plans in an interview with Politiken newspaper on Friday, saying that companies like Google, Apple and Microsoft "affect Denmark just as much as entire countries".

"These companies have become a type of new nations and we need to confront that," Samuelsen said.

Samuelsen said that the ambassadorship, which has not yet been filled, Denmark will work toward better relationships with the American tech firms that have amassed fortunes much larger than some of the countries with which Denmark practises traditional diplomacy.

"We are sending a signal that includes that royal crown and our entire diplomacy," he told Politiken.

The foreign minister pointed to a report in the Financial Times that showed that market values of Apple and Google are so enormous that if the companies were nations they'd narrowly miss out on inclusion in the G20, the world's 20 largest economies.

"We will of course maintain our old way of thinking in which we foster our relationships with other countries. But we simply need to have closer ties to some of the companies that affect us," Samuelsen said.

Denmark has already reaped the benefits of coordinated lobbying efforts aimed at the world's largest tech companies. Just last week, Facebook announced plans to build a new data centre in Odense. The Foreign Ministry said the Facebook deal was the result of three years of behind-the-scenes work.

Likewise, the Foreign Ministry's investment organization, Invest in Denmark, worked with Apple for three years before the company announced its plans for a massive data centre in Viborg.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Deputy: Man stole work tools, then accidentally called boss

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 6, 2017

FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP) — Authorities say a man stole tools from his workplace at an auto repair shop and then accidentally called his boss as he tried to sell them.

Citing an arrest report, the Times West Virginian (http://bit.ly/2hWxGir) says the owner of the repair shop in the community of Millersville told deputies that one of his employees recently called him about tools he was selling. The owner said the employee immediately hung up after he realized who he had called.

Deputies say they recovered the stolen tools after they obtained a warrant to search the vehicle and home of the worker, identified as 37-year-old Shawn Nelson Furner of Fairmont.

Furner is charged with felony breaking and entering, as well as conspiracy to commit a felony.

It is unclear whether Furner has an attorney.

___

Information from: Times West Virginian, http://www.timeswv.com

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Desert flooding in Australia causes mysterious creatures to emerge in their thousands

stuff.co.nz

Last updated 20:22, January 13 2017

Nick Morgan / Facebook This tiny creature is a shield shrimp. Wildlife enthusiast Nick Morgan found it near Alice Springs and sent this photograph to the Northern Territory parks organisation.

Recent flooding across Australia's red centre has caused mysterious tiny shrimp lying dormant in the desert to hatch in their thousands.

The crustaceans known as shield shrimp have cropped up in temporary pools and water-filled clay pans across Central Australia after wild weather lashed the region over Christmas and forced the closure of Uluru.

"The shrimp are well adapted to desert conditions as their eggs will remain dormant for years until there is significant rain, which triggers a population explosion," NT Parks and Wildlife said.

Queensland Museum Queensland Museum calls the shield shrimp "the most strange looking and distinctive of all desert crustaceans."

"Now is the best time to see the shield shrimp as the recent heavy rain in the Central Australia region has brought them to life."

A remnant of prehistoric times, adult shrimp reach about 90mm in body length and are typically olive green to brown.

Their eggs are highly resistant to extreme temperatures, and the critters can turn up in their millions after heavy downpours.

"I have seen these shield shrimp in a puddle on top of Uluru about 28 years ago. Got a ranger to verify them!" Ruth Francis posted on Facebook.

NT Parks and Wildlife said people can spot the animals at Redbank Waterhole in Owen Springs Reserve, Palm Valley in Finke Gorge National Park and at Napwerte/Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve.

- AAP

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Beware of the cat! Blood-thirsty devil pet jumps on posties

18:24 EST, 1 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Beware of the cat! Blood-thirsty devil pet named Heston leaves two posties, a delivery driver and mechanic wounded after pouncing on them

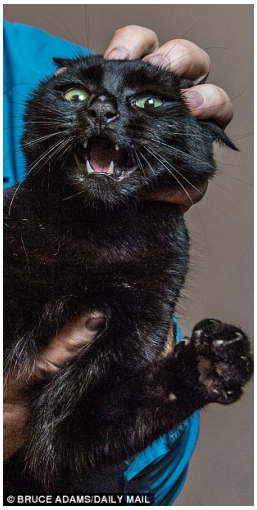
- **With his angelic eyes and glossy soft fur, Heston looks like any other gentle pet**
- **Easy to dismiss sign on Robertson front door warning visitors to 'beware' the cat**
- **But, as deliverers have unfortunately discovered, the sign is nothing of the sort**

By Inderdeep Bains for the Daily Mail

With his big angelic eyes and glossy soft fur, Heston looks like any other gentle pet cat.

So innocent is his appearance, it is easy to dismiss a sign on the Robertson household's front door warning visitors to 'beware' of their tomcat as a harmless joke.

But, as neighbours and deliverers have unfortunately discovered, it is nothing of the sort.



With his big angelic eyes and glossy soft fur, Heston looks like any other gentle pet cat

When five-year-old Heston is not nuzzling indoors with his owner Bruce Robertson, he is terrorising visitors to his home in Caldicot, south Wales.

So vicious is the cat, named after celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal, that he has injured two postwomen, a parcel delivery driver and even attacked a mechanic.

Steelworker Mr Robertson, 58, who has a 21-year-old son called Shane, said the family's pet has been dubbed the 'devil cat' by locals.

'He has drawn blood from two post deliverers. One was a postwoman who after the attack was shouting at us from across the road with blood pouring down her arm.

'Heston also drew blood from another post lady by jumping up at the letterbox and biting her hand.

'Then we had a parcel man who was bitten and he rang up my wife later to say he was going to report our guard dog for being dangerous. But it wasn't a dog that attacked him, it was Heston,' he explained.

'Another time a mechanic came round to give me the results from my car's MOT.

'He was attacked by Heston before he got through the front gate and wouldn't come in. When I went to help him Heston had his mouth clamped around his ankle.'

But when five-year-old Heston is not nuzzling indoors with his owner Bruce Robertson, he is terrorising visitors to his home in Caldicot, south Wales

In an attempt to avoid any more casualties, the Robertson's have been forced to put up a sign on their front door warning people.

It was designed by Mr Robertson's wife Wendy, 51, and reads: 'Beware: Guard cat on duty. Do not put fingers through the letterbox'.

Even the neighbour's golden retriever is no match for Heston who chases it away and the Robertson's neighbour a bodybuilder – ironically named Mouse – has refused to visit for fear of being attacked.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Devil-worshipping rapist attacked teenager in his satanic chamber flat

16:19 EST, 20 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Devil-worshipping rapist, 42, who attacked teenager in room in his flat he had converted into satanic chamber is jailed for nine years

- **Pedro Evangelou attacked a teenager, 19, in his flat in Islington, north London**
- **He had brought her back to his 'satanic chamber' after meeting her in a club**
- **She tried to escape naked but her attacker but he caught up with her**
- **The 42-year-old, who has a pentagram on his forehead, dragged her back in**

By Paddy Dinham For Mailonline

The 19-year-old fled naked when Pedro Evangelou, 42, preyed on her at his flat in Islington, north London after meeting her in a nightclub

A devil-worshipping rapist who attacked a teenage girl in his ‘satanic chamber’ bedroom has been jailed for nine years.

The 19-year-old fled naked when Pedro Evangelou, 42, preyed on her at his flat in Islington, north London after meeting her in a nightclub.

But Evangelou, who has a pentagram tattooed into his forehead, caught her and snarled:’I haven’t f***ing finished with you yet, we’re going to do all the positions,’ Snaresbrook Crown Court heard.

Evangelou dragged her back up the stairs to his room telling her: ‘I’ve got a gag and handcuffs.’

The room was a shrine to the devil, decorated with satanic posters and crammed with books on black magic.

Evangelou has occult tattoos all over his body and wears a pendant made of single human tooth.

The rapist showed no trace of emotion as prosecutor Hugh French read a victim statement from the victim to the court.

She said: ‘It will be with me for the rest of my life. It’s still hard for me to comprehend I’m here.

‘I remember thinking I’m never escaping, that’s what he told me. Not even sleep can provide an escape, his face haunts my nightmares.

‘It was no surprise when I was diagnosed with post traumatic distress disorder.’

She added that she had struggled with work since the attack, and was no longer comfortable around men.

Evangelou, was found guilty of sexual assault and rape after a trial at the same court in November of last year.

Andrew Collings, defending said he could not be certain about her suffering PTSD.

He said: 'I've seen no medical evidence of that.

'He is nothing if not stoic about the position he finds himself in. He is coping within the prison environment.

'The flat which he's been residing in for almost 40 years will be lost as a result of this.

'I would urge your honour not to pass consecutive sentences.'

Judge Brendan Finucane QC jailed Evangelou for nine years for rape, with one year concurrent sentence for the sexual assault.

He said: 'On that night in June 2016 you met the complainant at a club.

'You had clearly acknowledged each other before but this time you struck up a conversation.

Evangelou has occult tattoos all over his body and wears a pendant made of single human tooth

'The complainant, perfectly willingly, interested in your beliefs as a Luciferian, and your bikes, a Harley Davidson, agreed to go back to your flat.

'You spent a time drinking and smoking cannabis. You came up behind her and grabbed her.

'Eventually she got down the stairs completely naked. You then dragged her back up the stairs.

'She banged on a window for help to get the attention of a neighbour, indeed that neighbour called the police.

'She was really scared.'

The court heard the teenager managed to get most of her clothes and eventually escaped.

Judge Finucane added: 'She ran onto the street, where she was found collapsed and panicked.'

Comments (8)

The comments below have been moderated in advance.

Nomdeplume, melbourne, about 3 hours ago

The defendant says theres no proof she is suffering PTSD. How does he sleep at night? He is only a step in the rung above the rapist himself and the rapist already has his foot in hell.

Junius, Sunshine, Australia, about 4 hours ago

What nightclub let him in?

hedjuk1, Belfast, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Rather strange that a warning bell didn't go off in the victim's head. All the signs were there.

BR H, leedsw, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

WTF

Were too soft, Dartford, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Yes, If I was a girl in a club, he would be just what I was looking for to have a chat with

LoobyLou, London, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Needs exterminating, like the vermin that he is.

Ava Layne, Snowy Wonderland, United States, about 6 hours ago

Because that's the type of guy you meet at a club and go home with. Seriously?! Speechless as to how people knowingly put themselves in dangerous situations.

Mr Grumplemungus, London, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

9 years doesn't seem enough. He'll probably be out in half that.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Dippy the Diplodocus bows out after 112 years at Natural History Museum

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukSunday 1 Jan 2017 10:09 am

Goodbye Dippy, it's been a pleasure (Picture: AP)

Dippy the Diplodocus is bidding farewell after nearly 112 years on display at the Natural History Museum.

The iconic dinosaur will be shown for the last time on January 4 before it will embark on a national tour around eight UK locations.

As of yet, there's no plans for what happens after but his replacement has already been found.

A genuine skeleton of a whale which was found on an Irish beach in 1981 will take Dippy's place.

But it will never be the same.

Dippy is being replaced by a genuine skeleton of a blue whale found on an Irish beach in 1981 (Picture: Alamy)

Dippy was cast from original fossil bones discovered in the Wyoming in 1898 after King Edward VII decided he wanted a version of the original, which was in a Pittsburgh museum.

He arrived at the Natural History Museum in 1905 and was moved to the central hall in 1979.

Ever since then, he became an instantly recognisable symbol of the London museum, as he stood in the visitors' entrance.

Thousands joined a Twitter campaign under the hashtag #SaveDippy (Picture: PA)

But last year the decision was made to replace Dippy with the real skeleton of a blue whale and people were understandably upset by the announcement.

Thousands joined a Twitter campaign under the hashtag #SaveDippy and more than 32,000 people signed a petition calling on the museum to change its mind.

Some maniac is making a real-life Jurassic Park with full-sized robot dinosaurs

The Natural History Museum's head of conservation, Lorraine Cornish, told the Guardian: 'We will miss Dippy, you do bond with these specimens, after all. And he is so iconic, it is about memories and people have such a strong affinity with him.'

Conservators will spend the next year preparing him for his tour, which will last until late 2020.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Woman 'had sex with ex for four hours then tried to cut out his intestines'

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukWednesday 8 Feb 2017 6:25 am

Dalya Saeed, 34, is accused of trying to rip her ex-husband's intestines out after sex (Picture: NTI)

A father has told a court how his ex-wife tried to disembowel him minutes after they had a four-hour sex session.

Dalya Saeed, 35, is accused of stabbing Bilal Miah, 31, with a carving knife and trying to pull out his intestines.

A court heard part of Mr Miah's small bowel was cut from his body and thrown onto the bedroom carpet.

The taxi driver, who had remarried, told a jury he desperately tried to push his entrails back into his stomach after being attacked by his estranged wife at her home.

Yesterday, Mr Miah told the jury he was attacked by Saeed at around 10pm on October 19, 2015 after going to her flat in Moseley, Birmingham.

Bilal Mohammed desperately tried to push his intestines back into his stomach (Picture: NTI)

He said the pair had argued about custody of their daughter before they ended up back on the bed.

Giving evidence, Mr Miah added: 'Suddenly in the blink of an eye, and I didn't see the knife, she stabbed me twice in the belly.

'I can only assume the knife came from either under the bed or the pocket of her dressing gown.

'My intestines were out, everything was out and she was grabbing hold of them, trying to pull them.

'She broke one of them and threw it onto the floor but I managed to put the rest of them back in my belly.'

The court heard Mr Miah tried to flee the flat but Saeed pursued him into the street where she attacked him with a wooden bat and a meat cleaver.

He was only discovered in a nearby doorway at 3am when neighbours heard his screams and called police.

The jury were told Mr Miah suffered 30 separate wounds and spent ten days in hospital, where he had two operations, but made a full recovery.

Prosecutor Adam Western told the jury: ‘The cuts were so severe part of his small bowel ended up on the carpet.

‘She caused his injuries. Her intention was nothing less than to kill him.’ The court heard Saeed told police she attacked her ex-husband in self-defence after he raped her.

During cross-examination by her barrister Patrick Upward QC Mr Miah accepted he had been physically and verbally abusive towards her during their two-year Islamic marriage.

The jury also heard both he and Saeed had been at risk of being deported as illegal immigrants.

Mr Miah came to the UK in 2010 on a student visa but was classed as illegal because he had dropped out of college and Iraqi Kurd Saeed was only granted asylum in 2012.

The court heard Mr Miah spent four months in a detention centre in 2012 but was allowed to stay because he has a child in the UK.

The trial continues.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Dismembered deer carcasses remain a mystery in Ohio

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 17, 2017

NEW FRANKLIN, Ohio (AP) — Police in northeast Ohio have no leads in solving a Friday the 13th mystery involving the dumping of several dismembered deer carcasses alongside a road.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports (http://bit.ly/2jSTIAt) the mutilated and disemboweled remains of at least three deer were discovered on the side of a road in New Franklin last Friday morning.

Police say the does were found wrapped in duct tape and they didn't appear to be killed for meat.

Investigators believe someone harvested organs from the animals before they were left on the side of the road. Lt. Ed Klein said the case doesn't look normal.

The Ohio Division of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife has been notified.

___

Information from: Akron Beacon Journal, http://www.ohio.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Possessed' girl filmed kicking and screaming as locals 'carry out an exorcism'

By Rachel Bishop 10:08, 29 JAN 2017 Updated 02:20, 30 JAN 2017 News

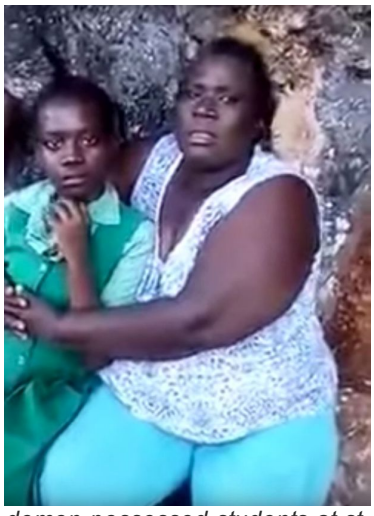
mirror.co.uk

The young girl's mum is convinced her daughter is possessed and has been pleading with the authorities to intervene.

Audrey Smith said least seven students at a school in Port Elizabeth, Jamaica, began fitting and kicking out on the floor earlier this month.

She said when a teacher at Ginger Hill All Age school asked one of boys what happened, he told her he'd felt someone 'grabbing at his neck.'

demon-possessed-students-at-st-elizabeth-school



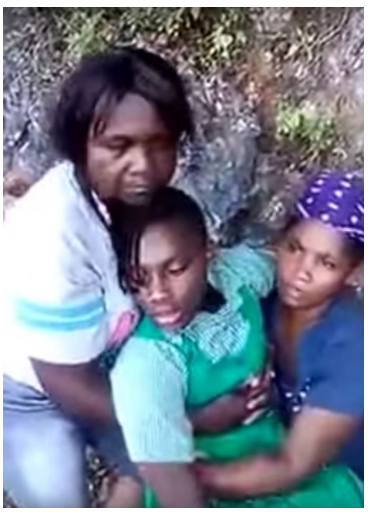
demon-possessed-students-at-st-elizabeth-school

Locals believe the children have been possessed by demons that were released after some graves were recently disturbed for extension works.

The 47-year-old told Jamaican newspaper The Star : “I know that it is demon in my child because I go to church and I plea for demons out of people. I am not a fool."

She said the attacks started earlier this month with her daughter and some other students fainting several times while at school.

Smith said a teacher asked her to accompany her daughter to school because of the unusual episodes.



She added that when a teacher questioned one of the allegedly possessed children, he said he felt someone holding his neck.

The worried mother said she will continue praying for her daughter and others affected and hoped the school would sort it quickly as they had a Grade Six Achievement Test in just over a month.

The video was posted on YouTube this week, with the caption: "Look what's happening to the students from Ginger Hill all age school in St Elizabeth."

demon-possessed-students-at-st-elizabeth-school

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Cat killed in house fire started by dog

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukWednesday 18 Jan 2017 5:20 pm

The dog accidentally turned on the cooker nob (Picture: Rolesville Fire Department)

A dog killed the family cat after it set fire to the house while trying to get to a box of treats.

It appears as thought the dog turned a knob on the cooker after jumping onto the kitchen units, fire officials said.

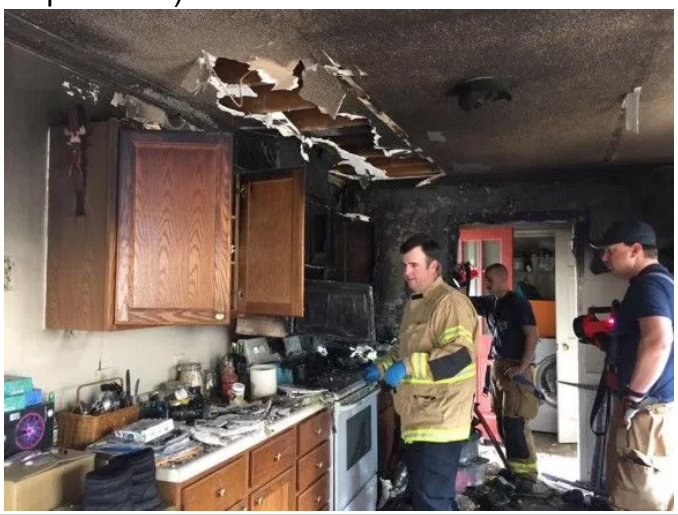
The box containing the treats then set alight on the cooker and the flames spread throughout the kitchen.

According to NBC4i, three dogs and one cat survived the fire, but another cat could not be saved.

No humans were home when the fire broke out, but investigators found some of the dog treats on the cooker.

Fire officials said: ‘Please keep items away from your stove and oven because freak things can and do happen.’

Firefighters found the burned dog treats (Picture: Rolesville Fire Department)



No one else was home at the time (Picture: Rolesville Fire Department)

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

NEWS

People are worrying about Donald Trump's 'secret door' – but it's really nothing to worry about

But it's really nothing to worry about

BY JOSHUA BARRIE
12:09, 29 JAN 2017

Donald Trump and Theresa May, and a not-so-secret door (Photo: Rex Features)

People have noticed that Donald Trump has a secret door.

On Friday, the President of the United States met British **Prime Minister** Theresa May. The two leaders held hands. Trump struggled to answer some questions.

As well as all that, some people spotted in one picture of **Trump and May** a 'secret door' in the Oval Office. It sparked some reaction. As did Trump's canny placement of a Winston Churchill bust.

Donald Trump and Theresa May talked about immigrants (Photo: Rex Features)

READ MORE

- US press branded 'cowards' after British journalists' cutting questions to Trump and May

Behind Trump there was a very obvious 'secret door'. Some people on Twitter couldn't seem to be able to cope. Mainly because it was so visible.

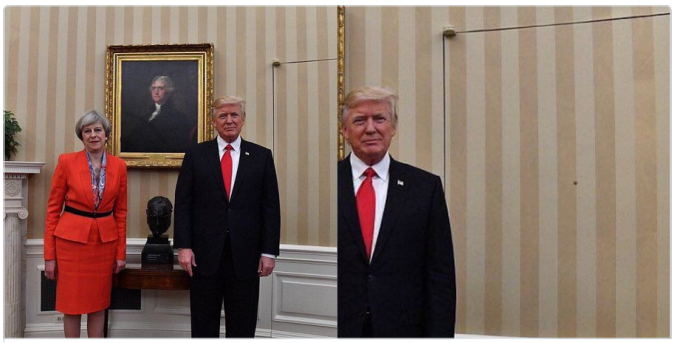
Joe
@sayers_14

Follow

Call me paranoid but I *think* there's a secret door to the left of Trump...

10:06 AM - 27 Jan 2017

2 1



mnrrnt
@Mnrrnt

Follow

That's got to be the worst "secret door" I've ever seen !
10:40 AM - 27 Jan 2017

4 12

BWP
@BlessedWithPace

Follow

The secret revolving door in the wall of the oval office isn't very well hidden. I bet you press Churchill's nose.
11:06 AM - 27 Jan 2017

The thing is, as most people are probably aware, the door isn't very secret at all. It's not supposed to be. There are legitimate secret walkways and tunnels in, out, and within the **Oval Office** . But we don't know about them.

The one pictured is simply to provide easy secondary access to other areas of the White House, without having to distort the look of the famous round room. There are lots of doors like it.

Tim Hoy
@Curu63

Follow

That secret door to Trump's left screams "Not now Cato!!" to me. I have never felt Burt Kwouk's passing so much #MayTrump #TheresaMay

10:26 AM - 27 Jan 2017

2

Architect David J Gill explained: "The Oval Office has two major doors, three windows and two more window/doors and the two concealed doors.

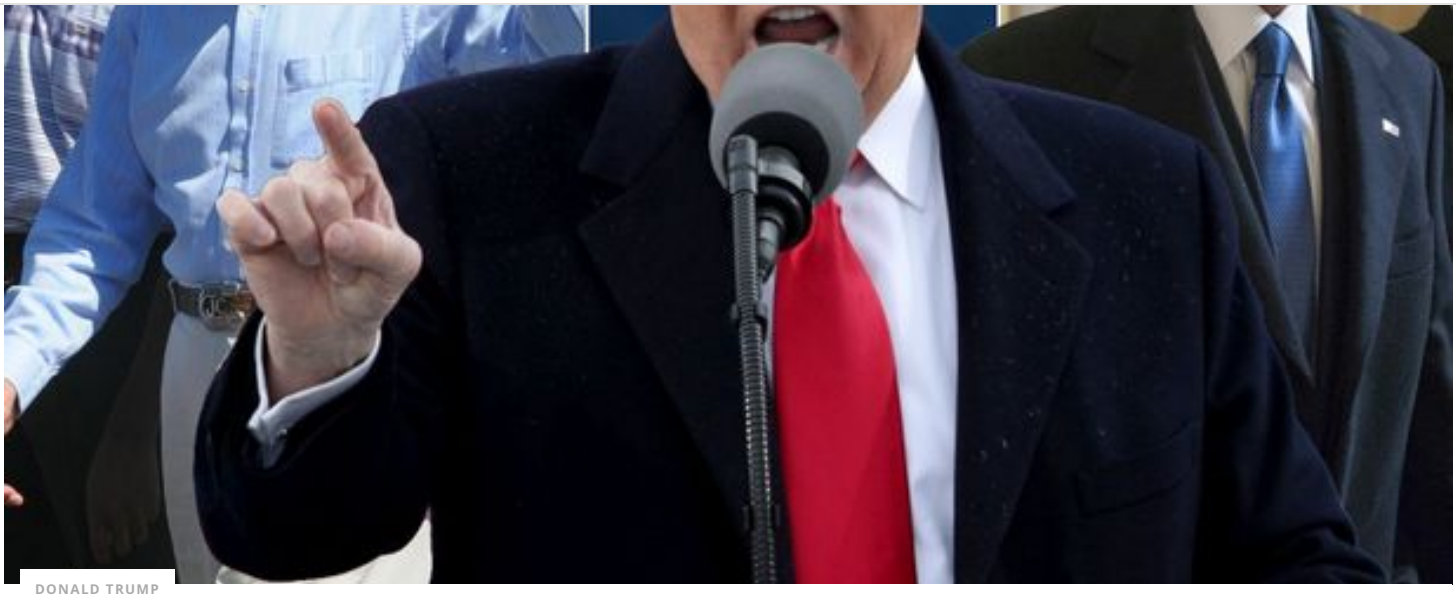
OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS

Theresa May Visits US And Donald Trump

Trump grabs May by the hand

MORE ON

White House Donald Trump Theresa May Sir Winston Churchill



DONALD TRUMP

No, Barack Obama and Jimmy Carter didn't do the same thing as Donald Trump's Muslim ban

SADIQ KHAN

Sadiq Khan demands Donald Trump's state visit is cancelled

3

EXORCISM

Distressing footage shows 'possessed' girl kicking and screaming as locals 'exorcise demon from her'

5

TIGERS

Tourist mauled to 'death by three tigers in front of horrified wife and child after climbing into zoo enclosure'

TOP STORIES ›

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD

"Refugees are welcome - let them in": Hollywood stars unite to condemn Donald Trump's Muslim ban as SAG Awards gets political

LOADING

PLANE CRASH

'Wish me luck': Woman's video from inside seaplane moments before it plunged into river killing her and boyfriend

LOADING

DISABILITY

Incredible moment mother paralysed on hen do stands up and holds daughter for the first time

OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS

DONALD TRUMP

Starbucks boss makes brilliant announcement in response to Donald Trump's refugee ban

LOADING

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD

Who won SAG Awards? Full winners and results list and best moments from the 2017 Screen Actors Guild Awards

LOADING

TWINS

Twin girls born at just 23 WEEKS were so tiny they fitted in one hand - but look at them now

LOADING

CAR CRASHES

"Help me find the man who ran me over and thank him for SAVING my life", pleads teen

Pa. woman dies after arm gets stuck in clothing drop-off box

Mari A. Schaefer
20170208

philly.com

Updated: February 7, 2017 — 6:57 PM EST

A Northumberland County, Pa., woman died after her arm got caught in the door of a clothing drop-off box while she was apparently removing bags from the container, and she was left dangling with her feet off the ground.

Judith Permar, 56, of Mount Carmel, was standing on a stepstool Sunday when it collapsed, breaking her arms and wrists and trapping her in the donation box, PennLive reported.

"She was fishing bags out and the ladder she was standing on gave way, and she couldn't get her hand loose," said Mount Carmel Police Chief Brian Hollenbush.

Permar died from blunt force trauma and hypothermia, according to the county coroner.

Permar reportedly went to the drop-off box along Route 54 in Natalie about 2 a.m. Sunday and was not found until 8:30 a.m. Monday. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Bags with clothes and shoes that had been pulled from the bin were on the ground. Permar's black Hummer was nearby with the engine still running, said Hollenbush.

Hollenbush knew Permar, and described her as a very nice woman.

"It wasn't something that I would expect to be seeing," he said when asked about items being removed from the donation bin.

In November, police received a report of a woman who was driving a black Hummer removing items from the bin, he said.

Condolences from friends were posted on Facebook after family members announced Permar's death.

"On Sunday morning my Mother passed away," Angela Minnig posted. "It was very sudden and our family will learn to cope with the loss of such an amazing Wife, Mother, Sister, and Friend. We will be updating everyone on her viewing and wish all who knew her to visit and pay her respects. She was such a fun loving person and we know it would mean the world to her to say 'See you Again.' "

Published: February 7, 2017 — 9:12 AM EST | **Updated:** February 7, 2017 — 6:57 PM EST
The Philadelphia Inquirer

© Copyright2017 Philadelphia Media Network (Digital), LLC

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Doomsday asteroid 'will hit Earth on February 16,' Russian maniac warns

metro.co.uk

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.ukWednesday 25 Jan 2017 4:57 pm

Early this year, NASA detected a mysterious object at the edge of our solar system – and said it would sail safely past Earth.

But one self-styled astronomer claims they are wrong – and that not only will it hit Earth, it's a part of the mysterious death planet Nibiru!

On February 16, a massive space rock will hit Earth – followed by the death planet itself, according to Mysterious Universe

We should note at this point that there's no scientific evidence Nibiru even exists – and that internet maniacs predict that it will destroy Earth with mind-numbing regularity, and that it never, ever does.

Self-styled astronomer Dyomin Damir Zakharovich says, 'NASA is lying through its teeth. It is not conceivable that they do not know the truth. We have seen the data!

'The object they call WF9 left the Nibiru system in October when Nibiru began spinning counter clockwise around the sun. Since then, NASA has known it will hit Earth. But they are only telling people now.'

'And this is just a precursor to the damage Nibiru will cause when it gets here. NASA probably knows the impact zone. I do not. We are all in peril.'

Dr Zakharovich believes that there's a global conspiracy to conceal the existence of Nibiru – orchestrated by the leaders of Russia and the West.

'The object is larger than NASA says. Our preliminary data suggested a 2.2km asteroid that will have no problem penetrating the atmosphere without burning up.

He claims it will destroy a city or cause huge tsunamis – and then Nibiru itself will arrive, and God knows what will happen.

Good thing it's all total, unadulterated b*llocks, then.

What is Nibiru - and should we be scared?

For decades, conspiracy theorists have predicted that an unseen planet beyond Neptune – called Nibiru or Planet X – is going to destroy Earth.

But in case you're worried, you should note that Nibiru (or Planet X) was widely predicted to hit our planet in December 2015, and before that in September 2015.

Prior to that, it was predicted to smash into our planet to coincide with the Mayan apocalypse in 2012 – and before that, Nancy Lieder, an American website writer who claimed to have an alien implant in her brain, predicted it would destroy the world in 2003.

NASA has thoroughly debunked the Nibiru myth via its Beyond 2012 page, saying, 'Nibiru and other stories about wayward planets are an Internet hoax. There is no factual basis for these claims. If Nibiru or Planet X were real and headed for an encounter with the Earth, astronomers would have been tracking it for at least the past decade, and it would be visible by now to the naked eye.'

Soviet-born American writer Zecharia Sitchin first wrote about Nibiru in his hit 1976 book 'The 12th Planet' where he claimed it was inhabited by a race of 'ancient aliens' – the Annunaki – who had created the human race.

Sitchin's work remains in print and has a devoted following around the world.

Nigel Watson, author of the UFO Investigations Manual says, 'Zecharia Sitchin claims that Nibiru collided with a planet called Tiamat that was situated between Mars and Jupiter. The result was the creation of the asteroid belt and planet Earth.'

'Nibiru is populated by the Anunnaki, an advanced humanoid race, who visited Earth thousands of years to mine gold in Africa. As an outcome of needing workers to carry out these mining operations they used genetics to create Homo Sapiens.'

The object called 2016 WF9 was detected by the NEOWISE project on Nov. 27, 2016.

It might once have been a comet, or it could have strayed from a population of dark objects in the main asteroid belt – but it's not thought to pose a threat to Earth.

2016 WF9 will approach Earth's orbit on Feb. 25, 2017.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Dracula lives: the true stories that inspired our tales about vampires

telegraph.co.uk

The Telegraph

28 September 2016 • 5:16pm

A new book recalls the mass panics caused by vampire sightings in Eastern Europe during the 17th and 18th century

A fact often overlooked about Das Kapital by Karl Marx is that it was the first book in English literature to feature Vlad Dracula, more commonly known as Vlad the Impaler, in anything other than a purely historical guise.

The bloodthirsty prince makes a brief appearance in a narrative about the horrors of autocracy. It would be another 10 years before Bram Stoker immortalised Vlad in his famous novel.

One of Christopher Frayling's intentions in first compiling Vampyres in 1978, now reissued in a handsome expanded edition, was to give vampirism the academic credit it deserves as a literary phenomenon. Marx, by no means the earliest or grandest figure in the story of Dracula's creation, is taken rather more seriously in Vampyres than poor Stoker himself.

As Frayling points out, even in the introduction to his own Penguin Classics edition AN Wilson stated frankly that, "Dracula is patently… not a great work of literature…"

But although it often veers closer to the laughable than the terrible ("the skin of my throat began to tingle as one's flesh does when the hand that is to tickle it approaches nearer, nearer,") Dracula is an indisputably influential thriller, with a surprisingly noble heritage. It is that pedigree that Frayling's anthology seeks to illustrate.

"The body of one man was exhumed and a stake driven through his heart"

Part of this story is familiar. The modern idea of the aristocratic vampire was born on the shores of Lake Geneva, during a holiday in 1816 in which Mary Shelley, her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron and Byron's physician, Dr John William Polidori, spent a night telling each other ghost stories.

They all retired to write and Shelley's Frankenstein was one of the results. The other, by Polidori, was The Vampyre, a story of a nobleman who reappears after dying at the hands of bandits in Greece.

Polidori, to whom Frayling's book is elegantly dedicated, was a rather tragic figure. Not only did Mary Shelley dismiss his contribution to the famous ghost story session as "terrible", but the book's publisher went on to claim it had been written by Byron. (Goethe later declared it to be the greatest thing Byron had ever written.)

From Polidori's model, Frayling neatly draws the lines, through diverse works like James Rymer's Varney the Vampyre, various Victorian melodramas, to the apotheosis of Dracula and beyond to Angela Carter's The Lady in the House of Love.

An illustration from the penny dreadful 'Varney the Vampire or the Feast of Blood'Credit: Hulton Archive/Getty Images

vampires, dracula, twilight

However, it is when dealing with the more obscure and ancient stirrings of the vampire myth that he is at his most engaging.

The earliest appearances of vampires come not from literary sources but the remaining traces of genuine concern about "epidemics" in Eastern Europe at the turn of the 17th century. These early vampiric apparitions were far removed from the brylcreemed, genteel creatures of contemporary drama.

Generally overfed farmers, more inclined to prey on cattle and their own rustic relatives than well-spoken ladies in lacy nightwear, they were nonetheless responsible for genuine alarm in the most elevated political spheres.

Frayling relates Voltaire's astonishment that such superstition could have outlived the glare of the Enlightenment.

"Louis XV and George II were quite convinced of the existence of vampires and 'their banquets on the dead'"

"What!", his Dictionnaire declared, "Vampires in our 18th century? Yes… in Poland, Hungary, Silesia, Moravia, Austria and Lorraine…" But Frayling's anthology contains extraordinary notes from public enquiries in 1731 and 1732, led by regimental field surgeons, which intended not to discover whether or not vampires existed (they concluded, quite unequivocally, that they did), but to ensure that the outbreaks were contained.

Some of the details are astonishing, others absurd.

The body of one Arnold Paole (whose name was to become famous across Europe) was exhumed and found, "not decomposed… eyes filled with fresh blood, which also flowed from his nose mouth and ears, soiling his shirt and funeral shroud… a stake was driven through his heart. But, as this was being performed… he gave a great shriek, and an enormous quantity of blood spurted from his body…"

Louis XV and, according to Horace Walpole, George II were also quite convinced of the existence of vampires and "their banquets on the dead…"

Vampirism as a myth fed as effectively off credulity as off blood and the exhortations to believe are an enduring feature of modern vampire tales.

vampires, twilight, dracula

So many stories carefully demonstrate their credentials before they begin. A K Tolstoy's terrifying The Family of the Vourdalak is of a classic model, narrated by an elderly Marquis: "Your stories gentlemen… lack authenticity… I know only one story of this kind… so strange, so horrible, so authentic that it will suffice to strike even the most jaded imaginations with terror… I will tell the tale provided, of course, the ladies will permit me."

Early scholarly works on vampirism, such as Dom Augustin Calmet's Treatise on the… Vampires of Hungary, were written in the hope that the danger of the "contagion" might be better appreciated.

Frayling, of course, is faced with a very different audience. Modern cynicism provides a far less fertile ground for the germination of these myths and fancies. Van Helsing himself, the vampire hunter in Stoker's 1897 novel, makes a very astute point about fear feeding on innocence when he talks of Dracula: "This evil thing is rooted deep in all good… in soil barren of holy memories it cannot rest…"

vampires, twilight, dracula

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson in the 2008 film Twilight Credit: Peter Sorel

Frayling cannot really demand the same degree of terror from his modern readers, but his desire to see vampirism taken seriously gives his book an old-fashioned feel.

The anthology contains a number of unfamiliar extracts, some of which still have a remarkable potency.

Eliza Linton's 1872 The Fate of Madame Cabanal deserves particular mention. Conspicuous for containing nothing more than the suggestion of a vampire, it is a genuinely unsettling tale of popular delusion in the manner of Jean Tuelé's Eat Him if You Like.

It is unfortunate, though, that Frayling focuses so much of his attention on Dracula. Viewed alongside the rest of the work, the weakness of Stoker's writing does tell.

Frayling has declared himself ardently opposed to cultural snobbery and hierarchy of any kind and this noble attitude has led to the reinvigoration of much of the excellent material in this book, but it is folly to pretend that Dracula does not carry with it traces of Stoker's lonely summer holiday research in the "Whitby Museum, Subscription Library and Warm Bathing Establishment".

It is telling that his early notes - republished in Frayling's book - had as protagonist the rather unsubtle "Count Wampyr". Similarly, early titles included "The Undead" and, rather wonderfully, "The Dead-Undead".

Moreover, perhaps sadly, Dracula is now too familiar to be truly frightening. Frayling's introduction points to Edmund Burke's assertion that, "to make anything very terrible, obscurity in general seems to be necessary…".

Now, the better known vampires are entertainers - the absurdly glossy Edward Cullen of the popular Twilight series has hidden his fangs and, in the movies at least, drives a Volvo.

The great joy of this book is discovering the darker past of his antecedents, real monsters, who can still induce that tingle in the flesh with, in Jonathan Harker's words, "powers of their own which mere 'modernity' cannot kill".

To order Vampyres by Christopher Frayling (Thames & Hudson, £19.95) for £16.99 plus p&p call 0844 871 1515

© Telegraph Media Group Limited 2016

Credit: Heritage Images/Getty Images

Drudge Report Uses Jar Jar Binks Photo To Stoke Iranian Missile Fears

No, Jar Jar hasn't switched sides. It's just an awkward Photoshop.

02/02/2017 08:56 pm ET
David Moye Reporter, The Huffington Post

Hasn't Jar Jar Binks suffered enough?

News aggregator Matt Drudge apparently doesn't think so.

The Drudge Report posted a link Thursday to a Reuters article headlined "Khamenei ally says useless for U.S. to threaten Iran over missile test: Fars."

The article has Iranian officials vowing not to yield to threats from "an inexperienced person" like President Donald Trump.

To attract attention to the article, Drudge ran the head "Iran Rattles" and included this photo showing ground-launched missiles.

Screen grab from The Drudge Report

If you look closely at the bottom center left, you can see the image of Jar Jar Binks, the much maligned sidekick in the much maligned "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace."

Spoiler alert: Jar Jar hasn't left the Rebel Alliance to join Iranian forces.

His image was inexplicably superimposed on the picture of missiles by the Iranian-based Mehr News Agency (MNA).

The photo dates to 2008, according to TheAtlantic.com, which said that after MNA digitally added an extra missile to the picture, meme watchers created prank versions, including one of Jar Jar.

MNA actually used the Jar Jar-enhanced version for a story that just happened to be published on May 4, 2012 (aka "Star Wars Day," for "May the fourth be with you).

The Huffington Post has reached out to Matt Drudge for comment but hasn't heard back. The Jar Jar missile pic is still on his site.

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Drunk' skier fails spectacularly at trying to put on his skis

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.ukSunday 22 Jan 2017 7:49 pm

For some skiing is more about the apres (Picture: CEN)

For some a ski holiday is more about the apres, then the skiing itself.

And that certainly seemed to be the case for this man who doesn't appear to be in a fit enough state to take on even the simplest of blues..

In fact, things don't go well from the start, the skier falling over almost immediately before he has even managed to put his skis on.

Another skier, said to be his friend, doesn't help matters by pushing him over more than once.

But even having skis attached to his legs doesn't seem to help, with the skier immediately falling over as soon as he seems ready to leave.

Drunk man trying to ski fails miserablyhttp://metro.co.uk/video/1396515

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

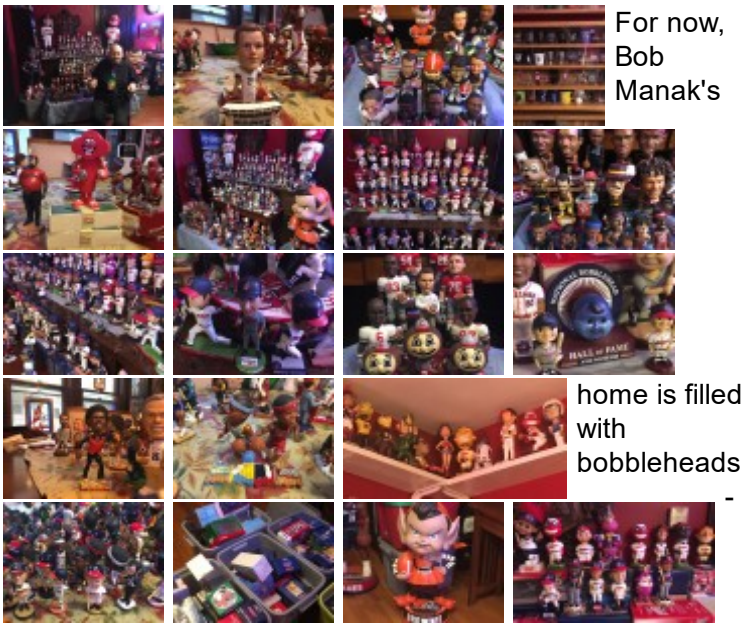
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Dying Cleveland man giving massive bobblehead collection to Hall of Fame (photos, video)

By Marc Bona, cleveland.com | Follow on Twitter on February 09, 2017 at 8:03 AM, updated February 09, 2017 at 8:04 AM

cleveland.com



For now, Bob Manak's home is filled with bobbleheads - 1,564 to be exact. He is donating the entire collection to the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame in Milwaukee. His collection includes three-foot tall figures, assorted athletes and many characters. He has collected since the late 1990s.

CLEVELAND, Ohio - Bob Manak has a legacy.

Bob Manak's bobbleheads

Manak has amassed a collection of 1,564 bobbleheads, the tiny shaking-head figurines that are regular promotional giveaways at sporting events. It started in the late 1990s when he spotted a bobblehead display at the old Mr. Bill's Tavern.

"I thought 'wow, that's cool,' " he said. "People would donate them."

Something about the nodding figures got to Manak, and a hobby was born. He found himself scouring flea markets, having fun haggling over prices, and soon his West Side home filled with the miniature players, mascots, entertainers and assorted characters.

Now he's getting rid of them, donating his collection to the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in Milwaukee.

Bob Manak is dying.

"I need to clear up some space," he said. "It's kind of sad for me. It's a big part of me. It's 20 years of my life. It's my legacy, basically."

Manak's colon cancer spread to his liver and lungs. He's had three operations.

"There's really nothing they can do for me now," he said.

But that's not stopping Manak, 57, from trying to do something for others.

Marc Bona, cleveland.com

His collection, most of which is inventoried and organized into 64 plastic tubs, will be, by far, the single largest collection the hall of fame has received, said Phil Sklar, the hall's co-founder and CEO. Currently, the hall has

bobblehead 14.jpg

about 6,000 unique bobbleheads not counting 1,000 to 2,000 duplicates.

Manak's collection - which he estimates is worth about $15,000 - makes the home resemble an ongoing cocktail party of mostly tiny creatures, save for several three-foot tall bobbleheads towering over their pals.

There's Brownie the Elf, which he found at the Indians team shop in Mentor years ago. "He's scary-looking," Manak says.

Other 36-inch tall bobbleheads include LeBron James, Chief Wahoo and former Indians slugger Travis Hafner.

"Chief Wahoo is my favorite," Manak said. "I'm a big Indians fan."

Trolling flea markets became a hobby. He made friends with vendors. Family members kept him in mind on Christmas lists. When the Indians released their annual promotional schedule, Manak would scan the dates with bobblehead giveaways and immediately buy a pair of tickets to each game.

"The deal was I'd buy tickets for friends, but I'd get the bobbleheads," he said.

It was a good deal. His home is a de facto museum. A shelf inches from the ceiling in one room supports his diverse team of players, politicians, cartoon characters and others. Some are recognizable, others are nameless. Some stare, others pose in action. The juxtapositions are as wonderful as Manak's laughter, which he sprinkles throughout conversation.

Spider-Man readies himself next to Adam Miller, former first-round draft pick of the Indians. Michael Brantley stands next to a hula dancer. Snow Miser is next to Kenny Lofton's "The Catch." But the best arrangement might be a foursome of Babe Ruth, a Playboy Bunny, the Pope and the Indians mascot, Slider.

He catalogued them until 2010, "then got lazy," he said. "I didn't know it would grow to be like this."

bobblehead 3.jpg

Marc Bona, cleveland.com

Here's a quick take on his collection:

* He estimates only about 25 percent or so are sports-oriented.

* About 20 talk. One depicts "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell admonishing a contestant as being "pathetic."

* His favorites are mascots and advertising ones (Alka-Seltzer is a bobbing pill).

* He has nine different Uncle Sams.

* Amazingly, he doesn't recall the very first one in his collection.

* Some double as banks, like a Key Bank bobblehead whose base is stacks of dollar bills.

* A Kent State bobblehead was the toughest for him to find.

* One of the rarest probably is a hand-made Ghoulardi, which an artist morphed from a Justin Timberlake bobblehead. It's one of only a handful in the world.

* The last one he picked up is the quartet of Dutch Masters, the white-collared, cigar-shilling fellows.

Virtually all will be going to Milwaukee, but Manak said he might hold back Wahoo and Brownie for his nephews.

"I've been having a little fun going through these boxes," he said. "It's sad to see them go, but I want to see them go to someone."

When he added a bobblehead, he would post a picture on Facebook, then store it. But about a year ago he converted a room to a man cave.

Many are packed, but hundreds were still out this week, offering splashes of color in Manak's home, where they share space with neon signs, shot glasses and magnets, his other collectibles.

Manak, who grew up in Novelty and went to West Geauga High School and Kent State, previously served in the Army and worked in artillery and as a quartermaster in Korea and Germany. He worked at Gund Arena for 18 years as an usher and supervisor. It was during those days he used to go to Mr. Bill's with colleagues and discovered bobbleheads.

bobblehead 24.jpg

Marc Bona, cleveland.com

Mr. Bill's is gone, but bobbleheads keep coming out. They continue to be a mainstay on teams' promotional schedules. This season, the Cleveland Indians, Akron RubberDucks, Lake County Captains, Lake Erie Crushers, Cleveland Monsters and Cleveland Cavaliers are offering a combined 16 bobbleheads among their giveaway dates.

Manak's sister Carol reached out to the hall of fame last year, and Sklar responded with a thoughtful, hand-written note. That touched Manak and his family.

Now, Pedro Avalos, who lives in Akron and works with the hall, is helping pack the hobby for the journey to Milwaukee. Wednesday, family members took pictures as bobbleheads were displayed and sorted.

"They're very fragile - just like you brother!" his sister kidded as Manak laughed.

"We get emails and calls all the time from people who have one or two or 10 or 100 to donate," Sklar said. "It's still exciting when people reach out to us."

Sklar said the hall of fame, which became official in 2014, looks to find a brick and mortar home in the near future, probably within the planned Milwaukee Bucks entertainment district adjacent to the arena.

Sklar even said there is a chance Manak's bobbleheads will become part of a traveling exhibit and make their way back to Cleveland.

"It's obviously bittersweet and exciting to have that many (in the donation), but it's also exciting to share his story and other collectors."

© 2016 Advance Ohio All rights reserved (About Us).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Ohio

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Some of the earliest black and white photographs in existence provide a fascinating insight into life in Victorian Britain

thescottishsun.co.uk

News Corp is a network of leading companies in the worlds of diversified media, news, education, and information services.

The Sun, A News UK Company
Scottish Sun
Search
Comments

WOMEN in bonnets and horse-drawn carriages – these photographs give a fascinating window into life in Victorian Britain.

The stunning historic images are some of the earliest black and white photographs to be created, and were taken by famous inventor William Henry Fox Talbot.

Stunning images, like this one of the Royal Exchange, London in 1844, show Victorian Britain as it appeared when the first photographs were being created

13
Stunning images, like this one of the Royal Exchange, London in 1844, show Victorian Britain as it appeared when the first photographs were being created

This image shows a reclining Lady Elisabeth Feilding in April 20, 1842

13
This image shows a reclining Lady Elisabeth Feilding in April 20, 1842

13
Fruit sellers peddle their goods at Lacock Abbey in September 9, 1845

13
Sir Walter Scott's Monument in Edinburgh as it appeared mid-construction during October, 1844

Talbot is known as the 'British Father of Photography' as he played a key role in making photography accessible for the public.

His work includes shots of fruit sellers with their goods by the spectacular Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire.

Fruit sellers peddle their goods at Lacock Abbey in September 9, 1845

Sir Walter Scott's Monument in Edinburgh as it appeared mid-construction during October, 1844

Another image showcases the famous Royal Exchange building in London, taken around 1844.

13

The collection includes some from Talbot's travels, such as this view of the Boulevards in Paris from May 1843

13

This black and white image shows Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, Talbot's home, in 1844

13

Many of the shots feature the surroundings around Oxford, like this image of Queen's College

13

The inventor took this shot of Westminster from the Hungerford Market by the Thames in June 1841

The collection includes some from Talbot's travels, such as this view of the Boulevards in Paris from May 1843

A comprehensive collection of Talbot's shot are now showcased on a new website launched by the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford.

The free site features over 1,000 early Victorian photographs, and is predicted to later have around 25,000 images by 2018.

This black and white image shows Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, Talbot's home, in 1844

Many of the shots feature the surroundings around Oxford, like this image of Queen's College

The collection has been launched to coincide with the anniversary of the pioneer's birthday, which was February 11, 1800.

13

The inventor took this shot of Westminster from the Hungerford Market by the Thames in June 1841

This image has become one of Talbot's most recognisable images and was captured at his home, Lacock Abbey

This image has become one of Talbot's most recognisable images and was captured at his home, Lacock Abbey

Talbot's wife, Constance, pictured with her daughters by a wooden gazebo in 1842

13
Talbot's wife, Constance, pictured with her daughters by a wooden gazebo in 1842

The free collection features many snaps from Oxford

13
The free collection features many snaps from Oxford
13
One of the thousands of images on the site is of Magdalen Bridge in Oxford, July 30, 1842
13
Talbot is known as the 'British Father of Photography' as he played a key role in making photography accessible for the public

One of the thousands of images on the site is of Magdalen Bridge in Oxford, July 30, 1842

Talbot is known as the 'British Father of Photography' as he played a key role in making photography accessible for the public

There are a number of other collections of early images that showcase the world on the cusp of change.

We previously covered rare pictures of Bhutan's clifftop monastery and king's bodyguards in the 1900s.

We also shared stunning colourised postcards from

1890 that captured life in the seaside towns and ruined castles of Scotland in the Victorian age.

Comments

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

Our journalists strive for accuracy but on occasion we make mistakes. For further details of our complaints policy and to make a complaint please click here.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Train evacuated after scorpion escapes from woman's bag

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukMonday 2 Jan 2017 4:48 pm

Train evacuated after scorpion escapes from woman's bag

The scorpion was accidentally lost in a carriage of 20 passengers (Picture: Shutterstock/Metro)

Rail passengers heading to Edinburgh from London were delayed after a scorpion escaped from a woman's bag.

The loose arachnid startled passengers on the Virgin Trains East Coast service on Sunday afternoon.

Train staff evacuated the carriage of 20 people at Peterborough where it was discovered a woman had accidentally lost it.

Passenger Harry Horton said he'd noticed something strange when passengers in front of him started jumping off their seats.

'A lot of the passengers were up on their feet. All of a sudden a couple came down to my end and they said there's a scorpion on the loose,' he said.

A guard appeared shortly after and the scorpion was scooped up and stashed in an ice cream container.

The woman had recently come back from Guatemala where she picked up the eight-legged creature.

Harry said: 'The police basically said to her, 'you're either getting off here with your scorpion or we're taking your scorpion from you."

'In the end, she decided to give up the scorpion and give it to the police.'

A British Transport Police spokeswoman said: 'We were called at 2.56pm to a Virgin train from King's Cross to Edinburgh and we met the train at Peterborough.

'A scorpion had escaped from a passenger's bag, but it had been recaptured quickly and put in an ice cream box.

'We have taken the scorpion to an exotic pet rescue in Peterborough.'

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Cellmate: Mother killed 3-year-old son, said he was "soul of Hitler"

By Crimesider Staff AP January 6, 2017, 10:45 AM

cbsnews.com

http://www.cbsnews.com/news/cellmate-mother-egypt-moneek-robinson-killed-3-year-old-son-said-he-was-soul-of-hitler/

PANAMA CITY, Fla. -- The former cellmate of a Florida woman accused of killing her 3-year-old son told investigators the mother has no remorse because she believed the boy “was the soul of Hitler.”

Authorities say 28-year-old Egypt Moneek Robinson remains in custody two years after the body of 3-year-old Aries Juan Acevedo was found in a suitcase floating in the swamp behind her Florida Panhandle home.

The News Herald reports prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Robinson.

Investigators say 28-year-old Tiffany Powell, who’s jailed on attempted murder charges, told them Robinson believes she was protecting everyone by killing the boy because he was an evil child.

According to court records, Powell requested to no longer share a cell with Robinson after talking to investigators.

Robinson has a hearing scheduled in February.

CBS News

Copyright © 2017 CBS Interactive Inc.
All rights reserved.

© 2017 The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Elephants use fog as cover to spring deadly attack on villagers

11:02 EST, 28 December 2016 | dailymail.co.uk

Herd of elephants use fog as cover to spring a surprise attack on villagers in Nepal killing one man and injuring two

- **Victim of the attack in Praseni village has been named locally as Bimal Pariyar**
- **The other two men named as Ram Prasad Lamichhane and Dinesh Singh Thakuri**
- **Thick morning fog meant they did not see animals coming and couldn't run away**
- **The security forces were called in to chase the beasts back into the forest**

By Gareth Davies For Mailonline

A herd of elephants used thick fog as cover to spring a deadly surprise attack on villagers in Nepal.

One man, named locally as Bimal Pariyar, was killed in the incident in Praseni village today, and two other men, named as Ram Prasad Lamichhane and Dinesh Singh Thakuri were taken to hospital for treatment to their injuries.

At the time of the dawn attack, the visibility was poor due to winter fog, meaning the men did not see the beasts coming and did not have a chance to run.

Three elephants advancing through thick fog similar to the weather conditions in Nepal today (file photo)

Elephants, like the ones pictured, ambushed villagers, killing one and injuring two

Government official Dilli Ram Acharya confirmed the incident and the army were sent to the area to chase the elephants back to the forest.

The injured men were taken to a nearby town for treatment and terrified locals were forced to run for their lives, according to Khabar Online.

Acharya said the village is close to Bardia National Park, home to many elephants, but it was rare for people to be killed by the animals.

The park is protected by government soldiers and is home to endangered tigers, one-horned rhinos and many other animals.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man accused of faxing jail fake court letter to get friend released

journalstar.com

- Jan 25, 2017 Updated6 hrs ago

Justin A. Colbert

Courtesy photo

A 23-year-old man pleaded not guilty Wednesday to an abuse of public records charge after police say he faxed a fake court memo to jail staff in an attempt to release his friend.

Justin A. Colbert, of 811 A St., became the target of a Lincoln police investigation after Lancaster County jail staff reported receiving a suspicious fax July 23.

The fax purported to be from Lancaster County Court staff saying a bond payment of $25,000 had been made for an inmate there detained in a weapons case and that he should be released, police said.

But the courts were closed that day, as it was a Saturday, and the fax had been sent through a web service with an attached email and phone number that didn't belong to County Court, police said.

Investigators narrowed in on Colbert after learning the computer the fax was sent from belonged to one of his residents and Colbert had served jail time with the inmate named in the fax, police said.

The email address used in the fax belonged to Colbert, police said.

The offense is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months jail time and a $1,000 fine.

Colbert is already in jail serving a sentence related to a theft case.

Reach the writer at 402-473-2657 or rjohnson@journalstar.com.

© Copyright 2017 The Lincoln Journal Star, 926 P Street Lincoln, NE

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

China police destroy 'fake' terracotta warriors - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

12 January 2017

Image copyrightMeili Lintong

A task force including police, tourist and traffic officials was set up in response to the discovery

Police in central China have raided a tourist attraction which they say was tricking people into visiting a fake terracotta army.

The site is in the Lintong district of Xi'an, the same area as the real Terracotta Army, which guards Emperor Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum. Forty statues were destroyed in the operation after an online complaint prompted local officials to take action, the official Xinhua news agency reports.

Lintong council's Weibo account shared photos of the raid, including an image of the statues' remnants after they were smashed to pieces. A local official told Xinhua that unlicensed guides and illegal taxis were used to draw tourists to the site.

Anyone visiting the site might have been slightly underwhelmed at seeing a few dozen warriors. The real Terracotta Army is more than 2,000 years old and contains thousands of statues - mainly soldiers but also horses and chariots - which were made to protect the emperor in the afterlife.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

·ida man rged with ng his death s 14 years

ociated Press February 1, 2017

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida businessman who faked his own death to defraud insurance companies has been sentenced to 14 years in prison.

The Florida Times-Union (http://bit.ly/2kTNMss) reports that 63-year-old Jose Lantigua was sentenced Wednesday in Jacksonville after he pleaded guilty to bank fraud, identity theft and other charges.

The former owner of a furniture business, Lantigua and his wife told people that he had mad cow disease and was traveling to Venezuela for treatment. According to his plea agreement, he went there to obtain a fake death certificate.

He was arrested last year in North Carolina while applying for a passport in another man's name.

Lantigua's wife, who also pleaded guilty to her part in the scam, received five years of probation.

___

Information from: The (Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union, http://www.jacksonville.com

View Reactions (14)

Share your reaction

GIF Post

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

Yahoo News

D.C. outsiders get first White Hou…

White House press secretary Sean Spicer…

118

Reuters

Four hostages taken, two…

One of the released hostages, an officer, was…

3

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

Associated Press

After walkabout, escaped bobcat…

After a two-plus day walkabout in the leafy wil…

24

Yahoo News

Severely burned Iraqi boy alone i…

Among those affected by President Trump's travel…

101

ABC News Videos

Walmart Releases

32

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

Reuters

Suspect in Canada mosqu…

By Allison Lampert

QUEBEC CITY (Reuters)…

3,124

Yahoo News

Full coverage: Reactions and…

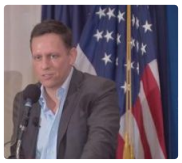
On Tuesday night, President Trump selecte…

15

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

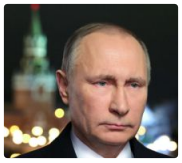


Associated Press

Peter Thiel became New…

Silicon Valley billionaire and President Donald…

51



Foreign Policy Magazine

Arrested Russian FSB Agents…

A top cybersecurity specialist and his deputy…

1,359

Cottondale man wins $5,000 through fantasy fishing

Stories From Chatter Network

tuscaloosanews.com

Bart Lindsey, a plumber and Cottondale resident, enjoys fishing and playing fantasy fishing games. Last week, Lindsey won $5,000 for correctly guessing the top eight anglers during the Fishing League Worldwide's Tour event on Lake Guntersville, which was held Feb. 2-5. [Photo submitted by Bart Lindsey]

Ever since he was a child, Bart Lindsey almost always had a fishing pole in his hand.

"I grew up fishing with my dad," said Lindsey, a plumber and Cottondale resident. "I've always enjoyed it."

In addition to his lifelong passion for fishing, Lindsey has also been an avid player in fantasy fishing, an online game in which people try to predict which anglers will come out on top in any given competition. Last week, Lindsey won $5,000 for correctly guessing the top eight anglers during the Fishing League Worldwide's Tour event on Lake Guntersville, which was held Feb. 2-5.

Lindsey, who had won smaller prizes in the past, beat out 3,000 contestants worldwide by accumulating the most points during the contest by projecting which anglers would finish in the top places on the event.

"It still seems very surreal," Lindsey said.

Lindsey has taken part in fantasy fishing contests since 2009, when the Fishing League Worldwide first started hosting the contests. He said that before the contest, he researched how each angler had done at Lake Guntersville in the past, as well as how each person had scored during the fishing season.

"It can be tricky," Lindsey said. "I've done a lot of research."

A self-described "weekend angler," Lindsey said he enjoys fantasy fishing for the the same reason people enjoy fantasy sports.

"I can't be a football player, but I can still engage with football through fantasy leagues," he said. "It keeps you involved and it's fun to do."

Brian Johnson, communications specialist for Fishing League Worldwide, said that interest has been building in fantasy fishing.

"It's been growing every year, the same way with the popularity of fantasy sports in general," Johnson said. "They like the chance aspect of it and the prize payouts are just as good as any opportunity out there."

Lindsey said he would use the $5,000 to help improve his fishing equipment and help him compete in tournaments. Next week, Lindsey will compete in the Alabama Bass Trail Tournament series, going to Lake Jordan in Elmore County and Lake Martin in Eufaula, among other locations.

"I love to be out on the water myself, but raising a family, I can't be a professional fisherman," he said. "It's too expensive."

Lindsey has a wife, Kimberli, and two daughters, Mary Kaitlyn and Brynlee.

Reach Drew Taylor at drew.taylor@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0204.

© Copyright 2006-2017 GateHouse Media, LLC. Some rights reserved • GateHouse News

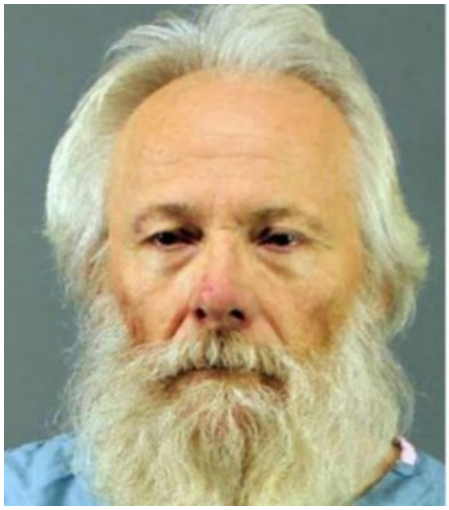
Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Couple Sentenced for Roles in Son's Fatal Beating by Church Group

yahoo.com

Inside Edition
February 7, 2017



An upstate New York couple has been sentenced for their roles in the fatal beating of one of their teenage sons and for seriously injuring another son during a violent church "counseling session," authorities said.

Bruce Leonard was sentenced to 10 years in prison, while his wife, Deborah Leonard, was given five years for participating in the October 2015 attack that left their 19-year-old son Lucas dead and their 17-year-old son Christopher fighting for his life, officials said.

The pair had previously pleaded guilty to assault, The Associated Press reported.

The 12-hour beating took place in the Word of Life Christian Church after Lucas said he was thinking of leaving the secretive New Hartford sect, Deborah Leonard testified in December 2015.

Read: Pastor of Church Where Teen Was Beaten to Death and His Brother Hospitalized Gets 12 Years in Prison

“The session turned physical,” New Hartford Police Chief Michael Inserra said during an October press conference. “Both brothers were continually subjected to physical punishment over the course of several hours in hopes that each would confess to prior sins and ask for forgiveness.”

Relatives brought Lucas Leonard to St. Luke’s Hospital after they found he wasn’t breathing, Inserra said. He was pronounced dead at the hospital, where medical personnel called police because they had mistaken his more serious injuries for a gunshot wound.

Read: Surviving Son in Church Beating Testifies About Attack That Killed His Brother: 'It Hurt Everywhere'

"I hit them with my open hand and punched them," Deborah Leonard previously testified.

Authorities said the teens were both beaten in the torso and genitals.

“It hurt everywhere,” Christopher Leonard testified at a hearing for his half-sister, Sarah Ferguson, who was also charged in the incident.

Ferguson and six other people who were charged for their roles in the deadly attack, including the church’s pastor, were all found guilty and were sentenced in separate hearings.

Watch: 3 Teen Girls Charged in Fatal Beating of Classmate in School Bathroom

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Judge is called in to settle family feud over woman's gravestones

12:10 EST, 29 January 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Judge is called in to settle family feud over twice-married woman who has TWO gravestones

- **Susannah Cragg Allison, 82, died in April last year of diabetes complications**
- **Her first husband, Alan, died in 1978 and had a grave at a church in Staffordshire**
- **Her sons added her name to that gravestone but her second husband ordered a second gravestone, to acknowledge her as 'Wife of Bill'**
- **Now the Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield has been called in to arbitrate**

By South West News Service and Chris Summers For Mailonline

A judge has been called in to sort out a family feud over a woman who has been buried with two gravestones in the same churchyard.

Susannah Cragg Allison, 82, died in April last year from complications associated with her diabetes and her sons ordered the first gravestone to mark the spot where her ashes are buried at St John the Baptist Church in Armitage, Staffordshire.

Her name was added to a memorial marking the grave of her first husband, Alan Matthewson, who died in 1978.

Mrs Cragg Allison's sons installed a new gravestone (left), adding her name to that of their father, who died in 1978. But her second husband then placed a second gravestone in front of it

But Mrs Allison had been married twice and her second husband, Bill, ordered a separate gravestone, which read: 'Treasured memories of Susannah Cragg Allison, wife of Bill, died 12th April 2016, aged 82 years. Love you, God bless till we meet again.'

Mrs Allison's sons, Gordon and Paul Matthewson, complained to the church and a judge has now stepped in and has said one of the gravestones will have to be removed.

Bill Allison, 85, whose first wife, Rita, died 36 years ago, says he is baffled by his stepsons' reaction.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield has ordered that the gravestone (pictured) ordered by Mr Allison be removed

He said: 'There was no hint of it at the funeral. Although they didn't speak, they've never got on with me, I don't know why - we just didn't get on.'

Mr Allison said he could do without the stress of the dispute: 'I've got a bad heart and had a bypass four years ago. It's made things very difficult for the grandchildren on both sides.'

He said: 'What would Susannah think of it? Not a lot, I reckon. She'd be sad.'

'She was a wonderful woman and we did a lot together.

He said her first husband, Alan had been a 'good chap' and he said: 'It was never my intention to cause upset. I went to the stonemason's to ask if the words "nee Matthewson" could be included on my headstone - but they said it was too late.'

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield, Stephen Eyres QC, said he could not order either side to add words to their headstones.

'But I can make the addition of a suitable inscription a precondition of the headstone remaining in position, and of the removal of the new memorial put there by Mr Allison.'

Mr Eyres said: 'This is truly a case where the differences which have arisen are most unfortunate.

'It is clear that all concerned had a deep love for Susannah Allison. But their feelings towards each other are anything but loving or, indeed, respectful.'

The diocesan authorities were called in to referee the dispute over the graves in the grounds of St John the Baptist Church in Armitage, Staffordshire (pictured)

Comments (79)

The comments below have not been moderated.

Mrs M, UK, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

Does it matter ? Gravestones are for those who are left, not for the one who has died.

Myopioncounts, London, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

I think her sons should have the final say. It was their mother at the end of the day.

Sydney Jane, Sydney, Australia, about 2 hours ago

what did she want?

Bump688, London, about 3 hours ago

The second husbands headstone should remain. The step sons may not like it, but heir mums husband has the right.

Sydney Jane, Sydney, Australia, about 2 hours ago

her sons obviously don't respect her!

theyareallgangshtersh, Nuneaton, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Two memorials, what harm?

RZN, Sydney, Australia, about 7 hours ago

What a Great woman she must have been Rest in Peace. They all seem to love her.

Mrs M, UK, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

With a selfish love!

Girlhappy12345, London, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

When someone passes there ALWAYS seems to be a family feud. It's awful.

T4Y10R, manchester, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Their mother married again it's not right she goes back to her first husband. That wouldn't of happened in life so shouldn't in death. Don't need a fancy barrister to tell you that.

No1wifey, Nottingham, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Family's can be such asses

Kynos, Cavan, Ireland, about 8 hours ago

A sad affair. Could they not do the Solomonic thing and carve a line down the centre of her stone and each pick a side and add their inscriptions in slightly smaller font?

Andy, Manchester, about 8 hours ago

Arbitrate? It's up to the legal owner of the grave. Story about nothing

Sydney Jane, Sydney, Australia, about 2 hours ago

well if that's the case the second husband being the legal next of kin can have the ashes interred elsewhere with his memorial, and if her son's don't like it, the can lump it as my old granny would have said.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

World's most terrifying flight - Flight 666 to HEL on Friday the 13 takes off

By Anthony Bond 15:09, 13 JAN 2017 Updated 15:46, 13 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

World's most terrifying flight? Fearless passengers take Flight 666 to HEL on Friday the 13

A Finnair flight took off from Copenhagen to Helsinki today but those of a superstitious nature were best to avoid it

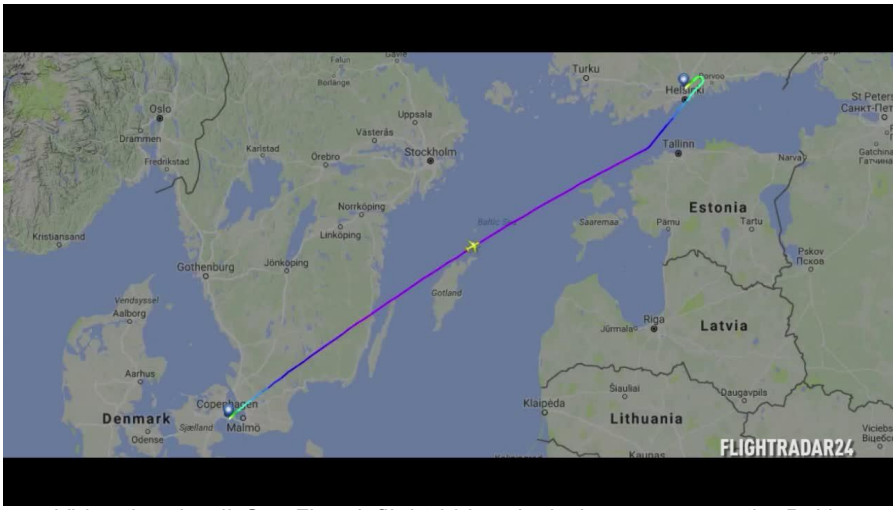
Many people around the world have a fear of flying at the best of times.

But those of a superstitious nature were best to stay away from one particular flight today.

A Finnair plane to HEL with a flight number of 666 travelled on Friday the 13. The aircraft is also believed to be 13-years-old.

Flight AY666 took off from Copenhagen to Helsinki - which has the airport baggage code of HEL - shortly after 12.15pm UK time.

Thankfully, despite the eerie superstitions around the flight, it landed safely with no problems.



Video thumbnail, See Finnair flight 666 make its journey across the Baltic

The flight has become something of a joke among pilots whenever it has to fly on Friday 13.

Pilot Juha-Pekka Keidasto told RT recently: "It has been quite a joke among the pilots… It's only a coincidence for me.

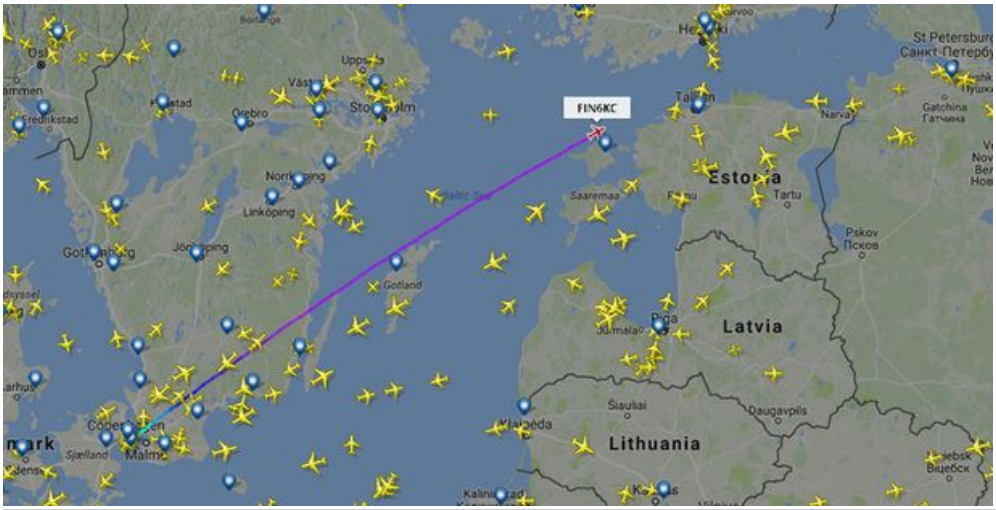
“If there's some passenger who is anxious about this 666, our cabin crew is always happy to help them.”

The number 666 has long been avoided by superstitious people and has been used as a means of fear in horror films.

It is also The Number of the Beast in the New Testament.

Friday 13 has long been associated as being an unlucky day among western countries.

- © 2016 MGN Limited



/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Florida convict blames Verizon for letting him steal man's identity

wftv.com

Updated: Jan 2, 2017 - 11:49 AM

A Florida man sentenced to 10 years in prison for using a stolen identity to obtain more than $300 in products and services from Verizon Wireless is suing the company for not stopping him.

James Leslie Kelly was convicted in October of grand theft and criminal use of personal identification information in connection with a May 7, 2015, incident, according to court records.

On that date, Kelly, 52, went to a Highlands County Verizon store and used his ID to steal from an existing customer with the same first and last name, but different middle name, he claims in a federal lawsuit.

The suit, filed last week, claims the Verizon employee spent an hour and a half with him and should have realized that the ID and information from the existing customer account did not match.

Kelly claims Verizon's "negligence" caused a "loss of civil liberties and freedoms," because he was convicted and sentenced to prison in connection with the case.

He is seeking $72 million in damages.

Kelly has a criminal history stretching back to 1985 when he was convicted of grand theft with a firearm and sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison.

Between 1985 and 2014, he was convicted at least 37 times on charges including rental property fraud, trafficking in stolen property, receiving money through fraudulent use of a credit card.

As of Monday, Verizon had not responded to the lawsuit.

© 2017 Cox Media Group

© 2017 Cox Media Group.

Module # 2 - Component # 1

Birds - African Folklore

Introduction

The content that follows is written from transcribed tapes recorded by **Credo Mutwa.** Credo Mutwa is one of Southern Africa's most celebrated **Sangomas** or **witchdoctors**. The content therefore is not scientific but rather represent the feelings , beliefs and experiences of this exceptional man.

The views of Credo Mutwa **do not represent** those of WildlifeCampus ,it's management or staff . In addition since this is **not a Formal Academic course** there are no Objectives , Outcomes or Formal Assessments . You are however encouraged to complete this Components Take the Test in order to be assigned the **Top100** badge. No certificate will be issued on completion of this course.

These stories are written in precisely the same way that Credo tells them, with all their original colloquialisms and styles.

© *WildlifeCampus*

Birds: Beautiful Fertilisers of Earth

Our people, throughout Africa, believed many strange things regarding birds. First of all, our **general name for a bird in Zulu** is *ingonyi,* while in Sesotho and Tswana it is *ngonyani*. These are beautiful, strange and mystical African words, which mean '**fat'** and '**fattening'**.

Now… what has a bird to do with being fat ? Our people believed that, like the **animal herds that used to criss-cross the face of Africa**, birds were bringers of fertility. We believed that the **great bird migrations that used to come into our skies at certain times of the year brought fertility** to or 'fattened' the land. For this reason, a bird, any bird, is called the fertiliser or the fattener… *ingonyi*.

Another belief regarding birds is that they are the **souls of human beings** who have reached a high state of perfection. When you have been reincarnated seven times on Earth, as either a human being or an animal, you are raised by the Gods to the **state of a bird**, the **freest creature in the world**; a creature that is a friend to the air, friend to the land and friend to the water. This is the *ingonyi* - the freest of the free, the fattener, the fertiliser.

Our people **protected birds** with very, very strict laws. The *mosu* tree (umbrella thorn, or *Acacia tortilis*) is a large acacia tree, which has bean-like pods as fruits. The Batswana, ba-Pedi and Northern-speaking people **never cut these trees** down. Why? These are the trees upon whose **branches migratory birds rest**, when they come into southern Africa at certain times of the year.

Our people used to punish with a **savage fine** anyone who was caught **hunting** more birds **than was needed for food**. There were exact guidelines laid down to **prevent the exploitation** of birds and other animals, for example you were not allowed to hunt more than two guineafowl a day and you were not allowed to hunt every day. Each guineafowl you brought down had to last a number of days, which is why **guineafowl meat was dried**. The most terrible sin that our people knew regarding birds was for a man, woman or child to **break the eggs** of a bird. It is said that should you commit that sin, you will bring a curse of seven years upon, not only yourself, but also your family.

When we **undergo the deepest initiation into the mysteries of our people**, when we become not only sangomas, but also **sanusis** (who are higher than sangomas), we often are asked questions that are actually **riddles**. The successful answering of these riddles tells you whether one is a true sanusi or simply a fake. If someone **claims to be a sanusi**, I will ask him or her, "Please tell me, fellow sanusi, who is the beautiful woman who is the mother of a tree ?" Now, if the person is not a true sanusi, he will not know the answer. But the answer is, "the bird is the mother of the tree."

You find a saying all over Africa, in various languages, one that was stressed upon our people again and again: **if you kill a tree, you are killing a bird**. In Setswana

they say, "*setklara seswala kinyona*," and in Zulu, "*ummuthi uzalwanyone"* - both of which mean, "the tree is given birth to by the bird." Why did our people say so? Our people noticed that when birds from far away rest on the branches of certain great trees, sooner or later you would see **strange trees** growing at the feet of these big trees, since the seeds were excreted in the past by migratory birds.

The Bakgatla people have a proverb that **says if you shave the great Earth Mother's green hair, she will loose her feathered lice**, in other words, if you destroy trees, birds will no longer come to bring fertility.

Hamerkop

The hamerkop is a **very strange bird**. It is a small, ugly-looking creature, but this creature is the **second-most feared bird** (after the fish eagle) in South Africa by black people. It is not so much feared as revered. Why? I don't know.

However, it is the one bird that our people all believe is a **bird of very ill omen**. It is also the **symbol of vanity and human futility**. When you see the hamerkop in the water, it always **seems to be admiring itself in its reflection** on the water. So our people believe that it is the **symbol of pride and vanity**. It is said that this bird is proud of its feathers and that it is always well groomed, making sure that there are no lice or fleas amongst its feathers.

Zulu people have a powerful **symbol of futility**, a symbol that reminds human beings that they are really nothing, and that their pride is nothing. This symbol is that of the **feather of a hamerkop floating down a stream**, futility, being carried away by time.

So feared is the hamerkop, that when people see it flying over someone's village, they believe that a **death is going to occur** in that village. There are many beautiful songs in which they flatter this bird and ask it to go away peacefully.

One such song we sang as children goes like this:

Hamba we Thekwane
Uliqhawe le Nyoni
Hamba we Thekwane
Uliphisi lenyoni
Sithi hamba we Thekwane
Uliqhawe lenyoni.

In English the song translates approximately to:
Fly hammerhead
You warrior of a bird
Go away o' hammerhead
You warrior of a bird
Go away you hammerhead
You warrior of a bird
Go away you hammerhead
O' king amongst the birds

 © ***WildlifeCampus***

One of the **worst things that can happen to a person in southern Africa** is to **dream about a hamerkop** flying in the sky or wading through water. This means a great disaster will follow that person**.**

African Hoopoe: Harbinger of Friends

There is a **most ridiculous looking little fellow**, who looks like as if he is wearing a **Native American headdress** on his head. This is the *ngomfi,* the African hoopoe, the bird that our people believe is a **symbol of a loyal friend** or a good visitor. It is said that if you hear this bird sounding off in the bush, saying, "hoop-hoop, hoop-hoop, hoop-hoop," it means that you're going to have an **important visitor** who will bring much prosperity to the family. This bird's wing and tail feathers are black and white; night and day, darkness and light, pleasure and pain.

So, **if you see this bird**, it is believed that **you will have a visitor** or a friend coming to you, who will stand by you, by night and by day, through suffering and through joy. The bird's **general colour is like the colour of beer, corn beer**, which is why this bird is **associated with celebration**, and with drinking and eating.

Lilac-Breasted Roller

In Western culture, the **dove** is considered the **bird of peace**. But in African lore, it is the lilac-breasted roller.

Let me tell you about the *langazana*, the beautiful 'bird of the sun,' the lilac-breasted roller. This is the bird of **peace** and **reconciliation**. This is the bird that was often **sacrificed by kings who were making peace**. One of these little birds was taken and its throat was cut with a battle spear, which was thus purified of evil and sanctified with the blood of the 'bird of the sun.**' The spear was ceremoniously broken by the two kings** and buried in a hole and then the *langazana*, bird was buried on top of this spear and thus peace was made.

Long-Tailed Bush Shrike

Let me tell you about a bea**utiful black bird with white feathers on his wings and a very long tail**: the long-tailed bush shrike. This bird is *isakabutle*, King **Shaka's favourite bird**, known as 'the scatterer of enemies.' Only warriors, who were deter**mined not to return back from battle without having won a victory, wore the feathers of this bird**. They were worn in the headdress and around the upper arms of these fierce fighters. Whenever an army celebrated victory, the feathers of 'the scatterer of enemies,' the bird of victory, were much in prominence.

 © ***WildlifeCampus***

Another name for this beautiful bird is *ujomela*. What a beautiful name, *ujomala*, meaning the one who reigns supreme, the **king of kings**, the emperor.

Yellow-Billed Hornbill

The yellow-billed hornbill, *umkolwana*, is a bird that **really brings laughter to one's heart**. Now, what is this name, *umkolwana*? In Zulu if you say, "I believe," you say "*ngiakolwa*," and 'a believer,' whether a Christian or a believer in any religion is known as *ikolwa*.

Now what has this got to do with this bird ? The answer is very simple. A hornbill is a **strange bird, which, when it sits on the branch of a tree always looks up at the sky as if it sees something or someone up there**. Over the centuries, our people began to believe that the *umkolwana* is the symbol of faith, the symbol of human faith in a better tomorrow. The *umkolwana*, the little believer, is **the bird of the optimist** who says, "All shall come right in the end."

Even when there is the biggest drought, you will **never see the *umkolwana's* beak drooping earthwards**; it is always facing upwards, because it believes in a better tomorrow.

Bateleur

Here I see a bird which was one of the **holiest** in the land of the Zulus. This is the Bateleur **eagle**, known by the Zulu's as *Ingonghulu*. The word, *Ingonghulu,* describes the behaviour of the bateleur when **beating its wings** in the air but the word also means the beginning and the end, alpha and omega.

It is believed that **when creation began**, when the tree of life produced living things, **the first bird to fall off the tree of life**, was the *Ingonghulu*, the Bateleur. To signal the birth of creation, the *Ingonghulu* extended her wings and beat them, GHU-GHU-GHU, and creation was announced.

You were **not allowed to kill this bird**. It enjoyed the direct **protection of the king** of the Zulus. You were not allowed to harm this bird of victory. If it arrived in your area, it was immediately announced to the king that an *Ingonghulu* is nesting in such and such a place, and the king used to come there with his people and **conduct a sacred ceremony** there, to which no ordinary people were invited. It is said that a few hours before the **death of King Shaka in 1828**, an *Ingonghulu* was heard beating its wings and then it was heard making its typical sound, SJWEEE-SJWEE, a **lamentation for a dying king**. It is also said that when the world ends some day, in an Africa that will no longer be like the Africa we know, whose inhabitants will **no longer be black people, but yellow people from far away**, the last *Ingonghulu* will

stand up on a rock and there at sunset it will spread its wings and bid farewell to life, farewell to creation.

If you found an *Ingonghulu* **feather**, you had to wrap it up in the hide of a goat or a wild animal and take it straight away to where the village of the king or the *induna* was and there you had to bow three times at the gate of the king. And when the *indunas* came you would place the *Ingonghulu* feather at their feet and then withdraw very quickly.

Blackbreasted Snake Eagle

The Blackbreasted Snake Eagle, like the secretary bird, is a **symbol of victory**. A symbol of **victory over a vicious and pitiless world**. Again and again in caves and in other places of gathering, our people used to portray this bird. It is also a symbol of God's power. Its colour, black and white, like day and night, light and dark, show that this is a sacred creature.

Crested guineafowl

Inpangela is the crested guineafowl. This is a very **sacred bird** amongst all people throughout Africa where I have travelled. It is a **bird of protection**. Our people believe that the guineafowl is **gifted with protective powers** by the gods, that the guineafowl will protect your village's chickens against chicken disease.

The Zulu name for a guineafowl is ***inpangele***, which means the **one who is in a hurry**. The word *inpangele* comes from the verb ***pangela***, which means to wake up in the morning and go to work. The guineafowl is a bird that is **symbolic of human effort at survival**. In the language of the Botswana or BaSotho, the guineafowl is known as a ***kgaka***.

Again the word kgaka has to do with effort. If I say in this language I am hurrying ***gehgaketsi***, in other words, **I am running like a guineafowl making an effort**. It is said that when a country looses its fertility, the guineafowls are the first birds to disappear. Zulu queens and ***sjangane*** chief used to try and **breed guineafowls with domestic chickens** in order to create a strong breed of chickens which where as strong as guineafowls and capable of enduring drought.

Eagles

Another kind of bird that our people **looked upon with great reverence** is the eagle. A bird, which **like both the vulture and the hawk**, was seen as a **protector and a purifier of the wilderness**.

 © ***WildlifeCampus***

A bird, which was regarded as a **messenger** of the god of light ***umvilanganhgi*** himself. In the language of the Zulus an eagle of any kind is known as ***ukosi***. Now this word comes from the same root as ***kosi*** or ***inkosi***. The word means the **royal dominator**, the dominant bird. And in ancient times **only people of royal blood were allowed to wear the feathers of eagles** on their persons. And as with vultures those feathers had to be **acquired from living birds** and not dead ones because the feather of a dead bird does not have the powers that that particular bird is believed to possess.

Zulu speaking people associate the eagle with almighty god himself and they refer to god as ***ukosi oluma peko peko***, the eagle with many wings. In African symbolic god is depicted as an eagle with **twelve or more wings** on its body. ***Ukosi oluma peko peko***, the many winged eagle that can fly in all possible directions. If you are **in trouble** and you **dream of an eagle**, whether it is sitting on a rock or flying through the sky, it is believed to mean that you enjoy the protection of god himself and you need to fear nothing and no one.

If in olden days a man travelling through the bush came across the **shell of an eagle's egg**, it was regarded as a very good omen indeed. It meant that that **man would produce many children** who would serve god throughout their lives as **shamans** and **diviners**, as **healers**, **prophets** or **prophetesses** and other people who worked daily for the good of the community.

Greenspotted Dove

Now here we have got another bird with a very remarkable and somehow **sad history amongst our people**. It is a plump beautiful creature. This bird, our people say, is the **bird of mourning, a bird of sadness, a bird of sorrow**. It is a **symbol of loneliness without hope, a symbol of somebody who has lost everything**.

Zulus say that when this bird sounds off, it is saying "*My family is dead, my children are all dead and now my heart goes DO-DO-DO*, *slowly fading away*.

You should **not look at or listen** for the call of this bird. It was said that if you did heard such a bird, your whole family would perish.

Hawk

All birds of the hawk **family are sacred to the god of Light** throughout southern Africa amongst all tribes. The hawk is also a **symbol of faith**. Some say it is the **symbol of dead** in the way that it stoops out of the sky, snatches a chicken and takes it away before its mother can do anything.

This bird we call **the bird of a thousand dreams**. If a man or a woman **dreams of this bird**, it is seen that this person has been called to **an initiation**.

 © ***WildlifeCampus***

If while walking in the veld, you come across a **dead hawk**, it is seen as a **symbol of the transience of human life**. The omen tells you that you must do everything you want to do quickly, because time flies and doesn't come back again. The hawk is also a **symbol of courage**, of **truthfulness** and of **fighting for the right cause**.

Sometimes when hawks are particularly vicious towards a village's chickens, the owners of the chickens **will put wings of hawks tied to the thatch of the huts** on the outside to deter these rather hungry birds.

Grey Lourie

Now here is the bird known by our people as *Kwadira*. It is a bird that makes a very sharp sound to **warn people** that there are demons and **tokoloshes** and other things negative and hostile around.

By shouting at things, this bird is much respected by our people and it is a bird that our people are greatly happy to see in their villages, especially in times of tensions. They say that whenever the **shouter at enemies** is there, there will be no harm to our children.

Ostrich

Here we have a bird with a very remarkable **name** as well as a remarkable **folklore**. This is the ostrich, *Eenchwe*. In the language of the **Botswana** and the **Basutu**, the ostrich is called *Mpjwe*. Now this is very, very odd, because the word *Eenchwe* has to do with **beauty** and the word *Mpjwe* has to do with **newness and brightness** and **again beauty**.

Why? The ostrich is a very **ugly looking bird**. It looks big, huge and ungainly, and it has a temper to match. So why did our people associate this bird's name with beauty and renewal? The answer lies in the **fat** of the creature. As you may know, our people used to smear themselves from head to foot with **red ochre**. Ochre was used both as a cosmetic to **protect the skin** against the sun, and also as **solidarity**, if one may call it that, because the ancient first people, the **first people** to be created on this planet, are said to have been red.

Also, red ochre had something to do with **preventing age and corruption**. Why? Red ochre was called by the **Xhosa** people *Imbola*, which means that which has to do with *Mbola* or decay, **that which prevents decay**.

The **Zulu** people called red ochre *Isobuta*. Now this is another remarkable name. *Isobuta* means **the bringer of visions or dreams**. Our people believed that red ochre had the power to bring visions and dreams to someone and also to restore life in the **other world** to a dead person. Thus dead people were especially thickly smeared with red ochre to ensure their resurrection in the other world.

 © WildlifeCampus

But our people did not just take **plain** red ochre and smear it on their bodies. No, because that was asking for trouble. Red ochre could **dry your skin** if you did that. So they used to **boil the fat of an ostrich** until it became like oil. Then they used to mix the oil with red ochre to form a paste. They then smeared this fat on their bodies, which gave their skins a very red hue, which we were told was **loved** by the **ancestral spirits** and the gods.

Our people believed that the fat of the ostrich had the **ability to renew life**. A chief or a warrior whose muscles were aching was **smeared from head to foot** with **ostrich fat** and rubbed vigorously from head to foot back to front. Thus the ostrich is the **bird of renewal**.

But there was another side to the ostrich. The ostrich egg is the most powerful **aphrodisiac** known in Africa. In fact **Khoi-Khoi** men who ingest half cooked and fresh ostrich eggs are known for the fact that their organs of men are always erect.

Ostrich fat is also a powerful medicine against a disease that appeared in my younger days amongst mission school female teachers, **arthritis**.

Arthritis became a problem amongst our people long ago when the first mission schools appeared. Schoolmistresses suffered from swollen joints. They were women in a **male dominated profession**, and thus they suffered. And I remember my aunt, my grandfather and his many wives, use to massage schoolteachers **with ostrich fat** and they even boiled ostrich fat with bitter herbs and gave these to the suffering teachers as a medicine.

Pigeons and Dove – Birds of Peace?

Just as there is a **bird of conquest,** there are also **birds of peace**. One of these birds is the beautiful bird known as the **Lilacbreasted roller**. Our people **do not** view the pigeon or the dove as a bird of peace. And the very name, by which they know this bird, proves that it was viewed as anything but a peaceful little creature. There are two words for a dove or a pigeon in the **Zulu** language.

The first one is *Iguba*. This word sounds sweet when pronounced by the human tongue, but its meaning is **horrific** because the word means a **slasher**. It comes from the verb *Tjuba*, which means **to slash something** with a very sharp instrument. Thus you can see that the pigeon or the dove was known as a **bird of murder**.

Why ? Pigeons and doves are unusual birds because of the fact that when two males fight over a female they **fight to the death**. One of the male pigeons **dies** in the fight. Now amongst my people, a pigeon was therefore a bird not of peace but of war. Another name for the pigeon is *Ihobe*. Again this is a **bad name**, **sweet sounding** though it may be when pronounced.

 © ***WildlifeCampus***

It means **the ambusher**, the one who lies in ambush for an enemy. So, if you want to promote peace in Africa anywhere don't, I repeat don't use the pigeon as your symbol. **You will make things worse**. Please remember that even amongst people beyond the shores of Africa, ancient people such as the **Sumerians** and the **Babylonians,** the dove was not used as a symbol of peace, far from it.

It was the symbol of a strange goddess known as *Ishta*, a goddess who was a weird combination of a **goddess of love** and a **goddess of war**.

Shrikes and Whydahs

In KwaZulu-Natal and other parts of South Africa, there are **small birds** with very long tail feathers. Some of these birds are **whydah** birds and some are **shrikes**.

All of these birds with long tail feathers were under **direct protection** of the **Zulu** king in olden days. They were all birds whose feathers were looked upon by the Zulu warriors in the same light that British soldiers look upon medals such as the **Victoria Cross** and others. All warriors who had proven their loyalty to the king through **long years of selfless service** were awarded with feathers from the tails of these birds.

In his praise songs, **King Shaka**, is known as *Inyowny ethla esinye* - the bird which eats other birds. This refers to the **shrike**. It also refers to other birds of prey, which eat other birds. Throughout his life, King Shaka, was always seen wearing plumes of birds such as the wader bird and the various kinds of long-tailed shrike.

A shrike to the Zulu people is a **bird of conquest**. It is not a bird of cruelty. It is not a bird of oppression. It is simply a bird of conquest, a bird which dominates other birds.

Vultures

Our people were always taught that if you want to live in harmony with nature, you must praise it, sing to it, sing for it and then sing in honour of it. In the land of the black people, in days before western civilization held its clouds over the face of my motherland, destroying ancient traditions, turning ancient beliefs into mockery, birds such as the vultures were **respected** and **honoured**.

Our people **protected vultures** with some of the **strictest** laws they were capable of enacting. Vultures were known as *Izingwony zenkosi*, which means the birds of the Lord, or the birds of the king. And they were exactly that. Vultures **of all kinds** were protected by the king of the land. And our kings made sure that vultures were **fed** and never left the land over which the king ruled. In **Zululand** (*KwaZulu-Natal*) there were special places, places in which large flocks of vultures used to gather which were under the personal protection of the Zulu monarch himself.

 © ***WildlifeCampus***

To African people the vulture was the **symbol of fertility**. It was the grandmother who laid many eggs according to one story. Eggs out of which emerge not little vultures, but **any kind of animal** that there is on earth. Some tribes believe that the vulture was the original **great earth mother**. And our people believed that where there are vultures, there, there is **safety**, there, there is **purity**, there, there is **life**. In the language of the Zulu people a vulture was called *Inqe*, which means the purifier, the one who cleans off the land. In the language of the **Tswana** speaking people a vulture was known as *Lenong*. Again we see the word, *Nong*, which has to do with **fertility**, with the fatness of the land. Thus the vulture is the fertilizer of the earth, the one who makes the earth fat.

One tribe calls vultures by a strange name, *Edlanga*, in singular, and *Amadlanga*, in plural. This word *Edlanga*, or *Amadlanga*, literally means a **warrior, an army man**. For warriors to assemble and form ranks before attacking is known in Zulu as *Ukudlanga*, to assemble to be marshalled to prepare for war.
Stories say that the vultures were the **reincarnated souls of warriors** who had died bravely in battle. They were also reincarnated souls of brave hunters who had died while out on a **hunt**. One of the greatest things that could happen to either a **warrior or a hunter** was to be permitted by the tribal king to wear the feathers of a vulture as part of one's **headdress**.

Now here is an interesting thing. You were **not allowed** to kill the vulture whose feathers you were to wear. You had to dig a **big round hole** with the help of friends, a hole into which you could go and stand comfortably. Then you had to cover this hole with a **lattice work** of wood and with branches of trees.

Then a **dead ox** would be placed very close to the lip of that hole. And then you had to wait, hour after extra arduous hour. The vultures would come and swarm around the dead animal next to the hole in which you were hiding. And as the vultures got busy eating, you had to **seize** one of the birds by the legs and hold it fast, and then pull off three feathers from its tail or its wings. When you have done this, you must stay in the hole until nightfall with your feathers. Then the vultures would go away and you would emerge triumphant, carrying the three feathers to the king. Then the king **himself** would place the three feathers in your headdress.

Why did there have to be three feathers ? According to African symbolism, three feathers represents what we call the three lights of a human being: **truth, faith and honesty**. These were the three lights of the soul of the human being.

The bones of a vulture which has died of natural causes, are regarded by African healers and shamans as to be of **great value**. Ground into a **powder**, the bones of a vulture are used to **protect people** from mortal enemies but the vulture must have died of **natural causes** in order for the medicine to be effective.

The beak of a dead vulture is a powerful **instrument of divination** and it is part of the equipment of priest diviners. If someone dreams of vultures when one is about to build a family, this is taken to mean that one will be a parent of **strong children**, children who will be **great warriors**, **great defenders** of the home and the family.

 © WildlifeCampus

But if one dreams that one is being **devoured by vultures**, this is a dream which has taken to mean that one must mend ones ways because the gods are getting angry and might inflict death upon the person as punishment for a long list of transgressions.

Swallow

Now, one last bird. *Inkonjany* - the one who **points** the way to summer. The swallow, and other birds like it, is regarded by our people as a symbol of **effort** and **hard work** as well as of **unity**, because you will see these birds gather together in large groups as they come and go. The name *Inkonjany* means the **little pointer**, and it comes from the verb *komba*, which means to **point out something**.

It was said that if you saw a lot of swallows in the sky, it meant that the **summer and the harvest** would be very good. The same applies to the swallow's sister, *Themsoslana*, the one who has got a white breast with black spots. It is also something that points to the coming summer.

© WildlifeCampus

WORLD

TRENDING Queen Elizabeth II | Internet Nostalgia | Real estate | Trump | Best books of 2016 | Lotto Max

For more than a year, a woman lived in a $1.5 million home with her sister's corpse on the kitchen floor

LINDSEY BEVER, WASHINGTON POST | January 14, 2017 11:23 AM ET
More from Washington Post

A woman was living with her dead sister's corpse in this home. Brookline Assessor's Office

Neighbours had expressed concerns about two sisters growing older together in a million-dollar home in an affluent town not far from Boston.

Down a stately tree-lined street in Brookline, Massachusetts, 74-year-old Lynda Waldman and her 67-year-old sister, Hope Wheaton, who were identified by local media, lived in a beautiful but disheveled 1920s home worth CAD$1.5 million, according to online property records.

But about a year and a half ago, the house grew quiet and "unkept," according to a later report.

Neighbours who knew them had been asking Waldman why they hadn't been seeing her sister, according to the Boston Globe.

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

"We always asked where she was," Harriet Allen, a neighbor and longtime friend, told the newspaper. "She would ignore it."

Since the summer, Brookline police officers had conducted three well-being checks after people reported concerns about the house on Clinton Road as well as the two sisters who lived there. Officers had spoken with Waldman more than once, but she refused their help, Lt. Philip Harrington, with the Brookline Police Department, told The Washington Post.

Then last month, as temperatures hovered around freezing, a relative went by the home to help with the heat – and made a shocking discovery.

Inside the 2 ½ story home, Wheaton's decaying corpse lay on the kitchen floor, Norfolk district attorney spokesman David Traub told The Washington Post. Traub said there was "substantial decomposition" of the body and "substantial clutter" in the home.

Authorities said they believe Wheaton died in the summer of 2015; her sister, it seems, had been living in the home with Wheaton's body since.

The prosecutor said there were no signs of trauma or foul play, but the medical examiner has not yet determined the cause and manner of death.

On June 8, Brookline police received a call from a person who was concerned about the condition of the home, saying that "they may have abandoned the place," according to police records.

On July 13, records show that someone from Springwell Elder Services asked officers to check on Wheaton because the senior services agency had already made two visits of its own and no one had answered the door.

Officers responded but noted that the "patient has refused any help," according to police records.

More than a week later, a National Grid contractor who was conducting safety checks in the area called police and reported that the house "appears to be unkept and neighbors haven't seen the owners in several weeks," according to the records.

At that time, a resident at the house was checked by the Brookline firefighters and emergency medical services but refused further help.

It wasn't until Dec. 14 that anyone figured out why, according to reports.

According to Brookline TAB newspaper, which first reported the story:

A relative told police when she came over to help put the trash out one December morning, her cousin mentioned the heat wasn't working and was concerned the pipes might burst.

The newspaper reported that the relative took Waldman, the older sister, to another family member's home.

Related

Fishermen discover mummy-like body of a man drifting in a yacht on the Pacific Ocean

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Woman who kept husband's corpse for six months in hopes he'd resurrect didn't 'expect situation to go as far as it did'

Hamilton woman and her children kept husband's corpse in bedroom for six months, praying for his resurrection

The woman living there later told police her sister had been ill before and would sometimes fall and not be able to get up, so she'd give her water and fudgsicles until she was better. This time her sister didn't get better, and she told police she didn't know what to do.

The Brookline Health Department could not immediately be reached for comment.

Brookline, where John F. Kennedy was born, has a population of 58,000 people, more than 76 percent of whom are white, according to the census. More than 80 percent of those who live there are college-educated, and the median household income is $95,518, according to data.

Neither of the sisters who lived at the Clinton Road home were married, according to reports.

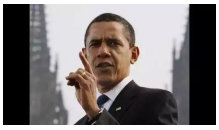
"They were recluses," Allen, the neighbor, told the Boston Globe.

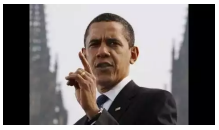
Still, Allen said, Wheaton, the woman who died, was "bright and alert and fun, and we enjoyed each other." Waldman, she said, is "a very bright woman, very well-read, very up on the politics of the day, to this day."

LATEST WORLD VIDEOS

AP Top Stories January 16 A

Raw: Cargo Plane Hits Kyrgyzstan Neighborhood


Obama Poised to Remain Key Leader for Democrats


Obama Poised to Remain Key Leader for Democrats

Find National Post on Facebook

Topics: **News**, **World**, **David Traub**, **Harriet Allen**, **Hope Wheaton**, **Lynda Waldman**, **Philip Harrington**

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Forbidden Fruit: Border Patrol Finds More than 3,000 Pounds of Marijuana Disguised as Limes

yahoo.com

Maya Chung
Inside EditionFebruary 8, 2017

Inside Edition

Things went sour for whoever tried to ship nearly 4,000 pounds of weed to the U.S. that were made to look like limes.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents discovered 3,947 pounds of alleged marijuana within a commercial shipment of key limes on January 30, according to their report.

"This is an outstanding interception of narcotics. Our CBP officers continue to excel in their knowledge of smuggling techniques, which allows them to intercept these kinds of attempts to introduce narcotics into our country," Port Director Efrain Solis Jr. said.

Officers utilized a non-intrusive imagining system along with the help of a canine team to locate the 34,764 packages.

The drugs were valued at approximately $789,467.

Watch: Border Control Sieze 3,000 Pounds of Pot Disguised as Watermelons

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Foreclosed mall once valued at $190M is auctioned for $100

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 18, 2017

FILE - In this Jan. 11, 2011 file photo, the flare from the gas burn off from a Marcellus shale well is seen over the Pittsburgh Mills mall in Tarentum, Pa. The Pennsylvania mall that was foreclosed on after its owners failed to repay $143 million has been auctioned off for $100. (AP Photo/Keith Srakocic, File)

TARENTUM, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania mall that was foreclosed on after its owners failed to repay $143 million has been auctioned off for $100.

Wells Fargo Bank was owed the money from a 2006 loan and submitted the winning bid for the 1.1 million-square-foot Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills on Wednesday. The bank was acting as trustee for MSCI 2007 HQ11, the trust that bought the mall in suburban Frazer Township.

Wells Fargo foreclosed last year on the mall, which opened in 2005. The mall once was worth $190 million but recently was appraised at just $11 million and is slightly more than half occupied. Pittsburgh Mills Limited Partnership defaulted on the loan.

Wells Fargo and the mall's new owners haven't commented on the purchase.

___

This story has been corrected to show Wells Fargo Bank acted as a trustee, it didn't buy the mall, and it was the mall, not the bank, that was auctioned off.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Forget Blood Moons: Cameraman claims 'lunar wave' he filmed proves Moon is a 'HOLOGRAM'

express.co.uk

express_logo

Forget Blood Moons: Cameraman claims 'lunar wave' he filmed proves Moon is a 'HOLOGRAM'

A SKY watcher who spends hours filming the Moon with high-definition telescopic cameras says years of research has convinced him the 'moon is a hologram'.

By Jon Austin
PUBLISHED: 09:25, Sun, Sep 27, 2015 | UPDATED: 09:28, Sun, Sep 27, 2015

CCROW777

A YouTube user has published a series of videos which crazily suggest the moon is a man-made illusion and covering something else up.

He developed the out of this world theory after he caught on camera something he calls a "lunar wave" which he claims shows it is a hologram.

His latest video of a "lunar wave" to be posted online was filmed on Sunday, and he says he was able to predict when it would happen because they are "fixed events".

Bizarrely YouTube user Ccrow777, of the Crow Discovery Project, said he is not alone in his theory the moon is not all it seems.

He said: "I am going to hit you in a way that is going make you think tin foil hat, but I'm not going to apologise for that.

"I have been at this for a long time, I have been relentless in my research and in filming and observing the moon and everything that happens and it is true, from the people I have talked to, and there are other people talking about the moon being a hologram, and quite a few people are aware of this.

"Quite a few people are aware of this. I am not the discoverer of this it is a well known event by now

“I made this announcement knowing full well the trouble that will follow – but I did it anyway because it is true and effects every living being on this planet.”

It has been suggested it is a malfunction or illusion within the camera, but Ccrow777 argues he ruled that out because the wave only affects the lunar surface and no other area in shot.

CcROW777•YouTube

Others have suggested atmospheric pressure caused the effect - in a similar way to heat =haze or that it could be caused by engines of planes - two theories he also rejects.

A quick search online reveals a number of other sites, posts and videos where people suggest the moon is fake, an illusion, or created artificially.

People who viewed his videos have mixed opinions, with some buying into it.

But Jason Miller posted on the Ccrow777's channel: "Have you ever thought how they would project a hologram everyday for the past thousands of years and follow the same schedule for thousands. It's irrational to even think the moon is a hologram."

RealityHijacked said: "I'd say that it's some kind of electromagnetic interaction sweeping over the face of the moon and distorting the light field as it goes. I'm not too big into the whole "holographic moon" theory."

While Nuno Patro added: "Have you considered it could be the refraction of a cold front or two layers of different atmospheric pressures?

CcROW777•YouTube

He claims after posting the footage online he was contacted by three individuals who claimed to have been in positions that meant they knew more than the general public, and the moon was indeed a hologram.

He then discovered former research by Russian scientists who speculate the Moon could be a huge artificial space station and the whole solar system could be fake.

Despite subscribing to such an extraordinary conspiracy theory, when interviewed Ccrow777 sounds completely rational.

He said: "My guess is it's not just a rock in space, there is a lot going on up there. To me its clear now we live in an artificial system.

Ccrow777•YouTube

CcROW777•YouTube

"If you look at moon maps no two ever match up. I have come to believe it is an illusion, and part of a control system we live in."

When pressed on things like lunar eclipses, which are filmed all over the world, he maintains they are all faked.

He said: "It is all staged. There are hundreds of objects that transit the moon during an eclipse. There is a control system behind the moon and it is something to do with the sun. Is it the system we have been told about or is it another system?

"I predicted the next best chance to film a lunar wave would be between September 20 and 30 and low and behold it happened.

“I have known the truth about our moon for a little over one year. In that time I have re-confirmed what I know many times. When I saw the Russian research it not only confirmed what I had come to know – it was perfectly spot on and then some – equinoxes – wave times – everything.

“I made this announcement knowing full well the trouble that will follow – but I did it anyway because it is true and effects every living being on this planet.”

It has been suggested it is a malfunction or illusion within the camera, but Ccrow777 argues he ruled that out because the wave only affects the lunar surface and no other area in shot.

Others have suggested atmospheric pressure caused the effect - in a similar way to heat =haze or that it could be caused by engines of planes - two theories he also rejects.

A quick search online reveals a number of other sites, posts and videos where people suggest the moon is fake, an illusion, or created artificially.

People who viewed his videos have mixed opinions, with some buying into it.

But Jason Miller posted on the Ccrow777's channel: "Have you ever thought how they would project a hologram everyday for the past thousands of years and follow the same schedule for thousands. It's irrational to even think the moon is a hologram."

RealityHijacked said: "I'd say that it's some kind of electromagnetic interaction sweeping over the face of the moon and distorting the light field as it goes. I'm not too big into the whole "holographic moon" theory."

While Nuno Patro added: "Have you considered it could be the refraction of a cold front or two layers of different atmospheric pressures?"

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Former Md. Contractor Indicted for Stealing National Defense Info

cbslocal.com

February 8, 2017 10:22 PM By Ava-joye Burnett

BALTIMORE (WJZ)– A former government contractor from Maryland has been indicted for allegedly stealing highly classified documents.

A theft the government says went on for years.

This case has sent ripple effects through the intelligence community, which was already battling an image problem after Edward Snowden.

Harold Martin III held a top security clearance for years. A privilege the government says the former NSA contractor abused When he allegedly stole a massive amount of highly classified documents.

“One of the most significant dangers we face is actually the trusted insider, somebody who is given access to our systems and our most sensitive secrets and abuses that trust and that’s what’s alleged in this case,” says Rod Rosenstein, U.S. Attorney for Maryland.

The indictment says Martin’s stock piling of sensitive documents went undetected for more than 20 years.

In the wrong hands, the government says the information could cause grave damage to national security. Even possibly endangering covert CIA operatives overseas.

Martin is accused of keeping stolen classified items inside his home in his Glen Burnie neighborhood, also in his vehicle.

Martin’s wife has defended him in the past. “I love my husband very much and I stand behind him.”

Martin worked for Booz Allen Hamilton, the same contractor as Edward Snowden.

“You need to make clear that this sort of conduct particularly on the scale that’s alleged in this case is just intolerable,” says Rosenstein.

Martin’s attorney has said his client was just a hoarder, who meant to do his country no harm.

“Hal is no risk of flight, he loves America, and trusts in its justice system,” says James Wyda.

Martin has been behind bars for several months. He faces 20 counts with the possibility of 10 years a piece.

The U.S. attorney stresses Martin is innocent until proven guilty. He is expected to appear in court later this month.

Follow @CBSBaltimore on Twitter and like WJZ-TV | CBS Baltimore on Facebook

1.

Harold Spacey says:
February 9, 2017 at 6:58 am

Another flag waving Trump supporter I'd guess. "He loves America" says his legal beagle. Probably has a flag tattooed on his left butt cheek to prove it.

Track Weather On The Go With Our App!

©2017 CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Woman who uses ASPARAGUS to see future claims 'national treasure' couple divorce

By Mirror.co.uk 16:00, 9 JAN 2017 Updated 18:05, 9 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

A fortune teller who uses asparagus to predict the future claims Britain will have a thriving economy during 2017 and a 'national treasure' showbiz couple will divorce .

Jemima Packington - otherwise known as the Asparamancer, or Mystic Veg - has been throwing asparagus spears into the air and interpreting the way they land for many years to predict the future.

She has been dubbed 'Ambassador for Vale Gras (the Vale of Evesham) even though she now lives in Bath.

"It is a great honour to be associated with it and it is great fun. I do it because I enjoy doing it," she said.

She added that when she does readings for people - up to 50 a day - at the British Asparagus Festival in the Vale of Evesham she often get repeat business from people she saw in previous years because her forecasts were so accurate.

She is thought to be the only Asparamancer in the world and began making predictions aged eight.

She says she inherited the gift from her elderly aunt who used to read tea leaves.

She made her predictions last week - using imported asparagus due to the time of year.

Her other predictions for 2017 include:

- The USA will be seen as a pariah under the presidency of Donald Trump
- Brexit will go ahead despite efforts of those wishing to derail it
- Other EU countries will follow UK's example and apply to withdraw from the EU
- Troubling times for the Royal Family
- Many more sporting scandal stories will emerge with very high profile figures falling from grace
- The political atmosphere of certain EU countries will change with the deposing of several prominent leaders

- Political turmoil within UK opposition parties will rumble on
- A major review of the UK's education system will be undertaken

Wychavon Tourism Officer Angela Tidmarsh said: "I know that 2017 will be a very important year for 'Vale Gra's' as the news of its protected status spreads far and wide.

"We hope this accolade will increase tourism even more for the county as visitors will want to experience the whole horticultural package the area has to offer.

"I'm sure that Jemima's annual predictions will also attract wide media interest as they have in the past and thank her for continuing to keep Vale of Evesham asparagus on the world wide map."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Freaked-out bar staff fear historic murder case ghost is haunting creepy pub

By Moira Kerr 06:00, 31 DEC 2016 Updated 10:50, 1 JAN 2017 News

dailyrecord.co.uk

Freaked-out bar staff fear historic murder case ghost is haunting creepy ancient pub

Creepy goings-on, including rattling glasses, pans flying through the air and chairs falling over have been reported at the Old Inn.

Swords on the wall have rattled and glasses have clanked together at the Old Inn

Thank you for subscribing!
Could not subscribe, try again laterInvalid Email

Staff at an ancient pub fear they are being haunted by the ghost of a Highlander wrongly hanged for murder.

Creepy goings-on, including rattling glasses, pans flying through the air and chairs falling over have been reported at the Old Inn.

Staff also say they hear mysterious footsteps in an empty upstairs room and see outlines of a ghostly figure.

Landlord Jim Milligan fears the ghost of James Stewart is to blame.

Stewart, known as James of the Glen, was hanged for shooting dead estate factor Colin Campbell – The Red Fox – in Appin, Argyll, in 1752.

Jim, 43, who reopened the Old Inn in the village late last year, said: “We’re worried that it is the ghost of James of the Glen. He drank in the pub and evidence for the trial was given in the back room of the inn.”

Jim said a motion camera has been regularly activated at the inn overnight during the past year.

He now plans to fork out £1000 to install a more sophisticated camera to see if it will pick up any images.

Jim said the first incident started not long after he opened the pub when he and other staff heard a loud sigh.

He added: “Ever since then, things have been happening. On one occasion, we looked into the kitchen area and one of the massive stock pots, which we keep on the floor, was falling from the ceiling.

"A couple of times, I swear you could see something walking across the kitchen.”

Barman Allan Colthart, 19, said: “Swords on the wall have rattled and glasses have clanked together. I was closing up one night and I heard three big thumps, like big footsteps.”

Chef Liam Roberts, 24, said he had also heard heavy footsteps.

Barmaid Lesley Moore, 49, said: “I didn’t really believe in that kind of stuff, then it happened to me.

“I was in here on my own. The fire suddenly went down and the glasses in the gantry started rattling.

“We had a St Andrew’s flag up above the gantry and, when the glasses stopped, the flag started billowing. I looked round and a chair was on its side.”

- © 2016 Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Fries extra crispy' special orders serve up a drive-thru drug bust at Epping Burger King | New Hampshire

By JASON SCHREIBER New Hampshire Union Leader
6:00 AM

unionleader.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER
New Hampshire news, sports, opinion and entertainment.

January 25. 2017
8:59PM
Epping police conducted a sting at the drive-thru window of the Burger King on Route 125. (JASON SCHREIBER/Correspondent)

'Fries extra crispy' special orders serve up a drive-thru drug bust at Epping Burger King

Garrett Norris and Meagan Dearborn.

EPPING — A manager and another employee of a local Burger King are facing drug charges after a police sting for allegedly using the drive-thru to serve a meal with a side of marijuana.

Garrett Norris, 20, and Meagan Dearborn, 19, both of Raymond, were arrested following an undercover operation on Jan. 21 that was planned after authorities heard reports of drugs being sold through the drive-thru window using the code word “fries extra crispy.”

Dearborn, a shift manager who was working at Burger King on Wednesday, denied she knew anything about drugs being sold at the drive-thru.

“I didn’t know what was going on, but since I took the order and gave them the food they charged me,” she told the Union Leader.

Police Chief Michael Wallace has heard other allegations of drug sales at fast food drive-thrus in the past, but said this is the first time his department has ever made an arrest in such a case.

“We don’t know how long it’s been going on,” he said.

The sting was a joint operation conducted by Epping police and the Rockingham County Drug Task Force with assistance from the Rockingham County Attorney’s Office.

The sting was organized after police received information in recent weeks about the possibility that other drugs were being sold at the Burger King and posed a health risk, Wallace said.

During the investigation, Wallace said, police learned that buyers would pull up to the drive-thru speaker and ask if “nasty boy” was working. Wallace said “nasty boy” referred to Norris. If he was there, Wallace said, they would order their meal and ask for “fries extra crispy,” which was the code for a marijuana sale.

On the night of the sting, Wallace said a bag of food was sold through the drive-thru along with a coffee cup containing a small amount of marijuana. He said Norris had marijuana stored in his personal belongings at the restaurant.

Money for the marijuana sale was paid at the window, the chief said.

Norris was charged with possession of a controlled drug with intent to distribute.

Dearborn was charged with conspiracy to distribute a controlled drug. She was also charged with unlawful possession of alcohol. Wallace said police found her with alcohol at the time and she was under age.

Wallace said police believe Dearborn knew about Norris selling the marijuana and assisted, but she claims that’s not true.

“Basically there was an undercover cop that one of my employees sold to and I took the order and I got arrested,” she said, adding that she also didn’t know about the “fries extra crispy” code.

Authorities said the case is unusual because it involved someone inside the restaurant.

“Although I can’t comment on the specifics of this case, I can tell you that in my experience in past cases, the deals are being conducted in the parking lots,” Deputy Rockingham County Attorney Patricia LaFrance said.

A representative from Burger King Corp. did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday.

Norris and Dearborn were released on personal recognizance bail and are scheduled for arraignment Feb. 28.

jschreiber@newstote.com

Comments

To improve the chance of seeing your comment posted here or published in the New Hampshire Union Leader:

Note: Comments are the opinion of the respective poster and not of the publisher.

Robert Rivett said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:10 am

Fries extra crispy and people extra dumb.

Richard Soucy said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:19 am

Sounds like a Happy Meal.

Hal Robertson said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:23 am

Have it your way, indeed. Hey, maybe that's why they are closed down so much. They run out of pot and have to wait for a delivery.

Mark Marks said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:41 am

"The sting was a joint operation..."

Stephen Grey said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 8:43 am

The marijuana is one of the healthier items on the menu. Zero calories and fat free!

maureen millett said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 8:59 am

Special orders don't upset us!!

Pete Burant said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 9:13 am

Ding! Fries are done.

sheila raynes said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 10:23 am

So let me see here. She was not aware that she was selling drugs at the window. So she surely must have not noticed that she was getting extra money for that order of fries. Did she think it was a tip?? Honey, you were not that unaware!!

Mark Larochelle said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 10:36 am

I'll take a large.

Greg Barrett said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 10:42 am

The poor girl should be believed. It is just the POT calling the kettle black.

ann guinard said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 11:24 am

Supersize it!

john martin said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 11:25 am

Now for every drive through I go through I'll have to say fries extra crispy, just in case.

maureen millett said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 11:57 am

The chick in the window is telling a Whopper of a lie, to the cops.

Steve Gamache said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 1:15 pm

Quite the entrepreneurs

Bob Robertson said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 1:37 pm

What a waste of police resources that could be investigating violent crimes. Who did they harm? Where is the victim? The sooner the NH legislature abolishes this insane war on drugs, the better.

Sarah Lee said Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 4:23 pm

Sheila, to be fair, the person that takes your order and hands you your food can be a different person than the one that you pay. It all depends on how the drive-thru is set up. Though, if she took their order AND handed them their food, she should have noticed and been confused by the extra "coffee" she was handing them that they didn't order.

Full Site Mobile Site
© Copyright 2017 Union Leader Corporation. All rights reserved.
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

GALLERY: Holy Smoke! Horsemen gallop through flames at Spanish fiesta

thelocal.es

The Local
news@thelocal.es
17 January 2017
11:01 CET+01:00

Photos: Pierre-Philippe Marcou

The Local
17 January 2017
11:01 CET+01:00

They may look like the horsemen of the apocalypse heralding the end of the world but in fact, the fiery festival of Luminarias is held to ward off evil spirits and bring fortune for the year ahead.

Each year in the village of San Bartolome de Pinares in Avila, Castile and León, the traditional fiesta is held on January 16th in honour of Saint Anthony, the patron saint of animals.

Photo: AFP

Horsemen charge their steeds through bonfires in a festival that is decried as cruel by animal welfare groups.

Photo: AFP

The festival stems from medieval times, when Spaniards believed that fires were magic and had purifying properties.

Photo: AFP

Now, the rites of the fire are said to ward off evil spirits and protect the coming year's harvest.

Photo: AFP

Particpants insist the flames do not harm the animals.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

CCTV appeal after two women targeted in 'noxious substance' attack in Edinburgh

thescottishsun.co.uk

News Corp is a network of leading companies in the worlds of diversified media, news, education, and information services.

The Sun, A News UK Company

COPS have released CCTV images after two women were sprayed in the face with a “noxious substance” and attacked at their home by bogus callers.

The victims, aged 17 and 25, were targeted at a property in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh.

Images of two men wanted in connection with attack

4
Images of two men wanted in connection with attack

The two men approached the door claiming to be inspecting gas meters.

Once they were inside they sprayed the women with what cops are describing as a “noxious substance”.

Police have today released images of two men they want to speak to in connection with the incident in Clovestone Gardens are 5.45pm on Tuesday, Frebruary 7.

Do you know these men?

4
Do you know these men?

Detective Sergeant Martin Smith from Corstorphine CID said: “The males pictured are believed to be of significance to our investigation.

“Anyone who can assist in identifying them is asked to come forward.

4
Police are appealing for anyone who may have seen these men to come forward

“Similarly we would ask the males themselves to get in touch with police and help with our investigation.”

Police are appealing for anyone who may have seen these men to come forward

Both suspects were in their late 20s, about 5ft 10in and of medium build and were wearing dark trousers, high-visibility vests and blue baseball caps.

4

One of the men was also wearing a parka-style jacket with a fur trimmed hood.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

German govt seeks 'drug dealers' to help distribute medical weed

thelocal.de

DPA/The Local
6 February 2017
17:03 CET+01:00

As Germany gets ready to implement a new medical marijuana law, the government apparently needs some drug experts to help with its distribution system.

As Germany gets ready to implement a new medical marijuana law, the government apparently needs some drug experts to help with its distribution system.

The Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) is searching for scientists to help implement a new law, effective in March, that allows doctors to write medical marijuana prescriptions for seriously ill patients.

Various job listings have been posted in recent weeks to work on implementing the law since it was passed by the German parliament (Bundestag) in January. One job description includes “planning and organisation of appropriating and effectively transferring cannabis in the distribution system” - in other words, someone to help with handing out the newly legal medical drug.

Other tasks include helping to award cultivation licenses and to establish the “cannabis agency”.

Preferred candidates should have university degrees in medical fields or natural sciences with work experience and a good knowledge of English.

The law passed on January 19th allows seriously ill patients - such as those suffering from multiple sclerosis or chronic pain - to receive prescriptions for medical cannabis products, covered by insurance.

The plan is for the German government to ultimately supervise the growth of medical marijuana, and even allow some private producers to apply.

Those interested in applying for the new positions can find the job listings here.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

German Officials Tell Parents To Destroy Doll That Records Conversations

consumerist.com

CONSUMERIST

German Officials Tell Parents To Destroy Doll That Records Conversations

February 17, 2017 10:51 am EST By Ashlee Kieler@akieler

get rid of them always listening toys connected toys my friend cayla germany european union federal trade commission Federal Network Agency

Late last year, research indicated that certain toys may be collecting audio recording and personal information from children and sending that data to a company that used the information to improve the voice-recognition tools it sells to the military and law enforcement agencies. While consumer advocates quickly filed complaints with federal regulators in the U.S., across the pond, authorities in Germany are now directing parents to get rid of the “My Friend Cayla” doll.

BBC News reports that the Federal Network Agency, which oversees telecommunications in Germany, has issued a warning to parents about the doll, telling them to destroy the toy.

The My Friend Cayla doll records and collects conversations between the toys and the kids, and then uses speech-to-text protocols to turn the questions into searchable queries.

A spokesperson for the Agency told a German publication *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* that the doll could be considered a “concealed transmitting device.”

Under German law, it is illegal to sell or possess a banned surveillance device. A breach of that law can result in a jail term of up to two years, according to German media reports cited by BBC News.

While this specific device happens to be a doll, the official says it doesn’t matter what form the device takes — whether a toy or an ashtray — it could still constitute a violation of telecommunication laws.

In addition to potentially violating German, and other countries’ laws, researchers also believe the My Friend Cayla poses a privacy and hacking risk for consumers.

Researchers claim that the devices are easily hacked to either intercept data or to turn the toys into remote listening devices.

Additionally, in the U.S., a number of groups have filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission arguing that Genesis Toys, a company that manufactures interactive and robotic toys, and Nuance Communications, which supplies the voice-parsing services for these toys, are running afoul of rules that protect children’s privacy and prohibiting unfair and deceptive practices.

The coalition — made up of Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (CCFC), the Center for Digital Democracy (CDD), and our colleagues at Consumers Union — petitioned the FTC to investigate the My Friend Cayla and the i-Que Intelligent Robot and put an end to these practices.

So far, the Verge reports, the FTC has not taken action against the doll.

Similar complaints have been filed with the European Union, BBC News reports, noting that the commission is investigating whether the doll and others like it breach EU data protection safeguards.

February 17, 2017 By Ashlee Kieler@akieler

Founded in 2005, Consumerist is an independent source of consumer news and information published by Consumer Media LLC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of Consumer Reports.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

German swimmers dive into frosty waters to become 'Ice King of Chiemsee'

yahoo.com

REUTERS January 15, 2017

PRIEN, Germany (Reuters) - Some 30 swimmers braved the frosty waters of Germany's Chiemsee over the weekend, racing to be crowned "Ice King" of the famous lake near Munich.

In driving snow, with air temperatures around freezing and water temperatures around 4 degrees Celsius, men and women competed in several disciplines such as breast stroke and freestyle in a 50 m course off the town of Prien.

The lake is known for its beautiful scenery and for a palace on one of its islands. Begun but never completed by Ludwig II of Bavaria, the palace was meant to the king's own Versailles, but he stayed only a few nights at the palace before his premature death in 1886.

Competitor Mirko Roever told Reuters TV he enjoyed the challenge.

"Ice swimming is one of those things where you ask yourself: Why are you doing this? Well, for the health, the stamina," Roever said.

"And it requires a bit of willpower. That is very important. To overcome your 'weaker self' and be able to say that you did it. That is the great thing about it," he added.

Ice or winter dips are common in Scandinavian and Baltic countries, where swimmers will take to saunas afterwards to warm up.

(Reporting by Ute Swart, Reuters TV; Writing by Michael Nienaber; Editing by Raissa Kasolowsky)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Germany: chemical odors lead police to failed alchemist

yahoo.com

Associated PressDecember 29, 2016

BERLIN (AP) — A German landlady's concerns about suspicious chemical odors from her tenant's apartment led police to a man who was trying unsuccessfully to extract gold from old cellphone and computer circuit boards.

The woman went to police in Braubach, near the western city of Koblenz, on Wednesday, concerned that she hadn't seen her 28-year-old tenant for some time. Police said Thursday that officers found a range of chemicals, and at first suspected he was running an illegal drug lab.

Further checks and questioning of the tenant, who was on a trip to southern Germany, revealed that he had been using the chemicals to try to extract gold.

The man had gone to visit acquaintances, including a physicist, for advice. They suggested he give up.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Evil 'Friday the 13th' ghost captured on camera looks just like the film's Jason Voorhees

express.co.uk

express_logo

Evil 'Friday the 13th' ghost captured on camera looks just like the film's Jason Voorhees

GHOST hunters terrorised by an evil ghoul were stunned when they captured the spirit on camera - and saw he looked just like Friday the 13th's Jason Voorhees.

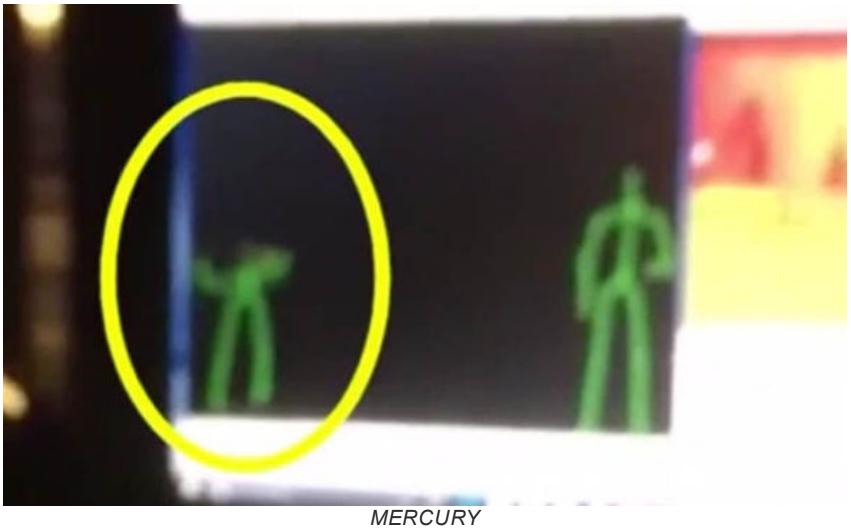
PUBLISHED: 10:08, Fri, Jan 13, 2017 | UPDATED: 10:31, Fri, Jan 13, 2017

The East Drive Paranormal team were called to New York Italian Kitchen in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, after staff reported seeing inexplicable events and filmed a glass mysteriously flying off the bar.

Medium Jason Lindsay, 20, believes the restless spirit of an evil former prisoner hung for his sins in a nearby police station now haunts the building - and was shocked when a thermal imaging camera picked up the clear image of a man stood in an empty room during their visit.

And when the paranormal investigators later inspected the pictures they discovered the face in the photograph is the double of murderous hockey mask-wearing horror film villain Jason Voorhees.

Bouncer and car garage worker Mr Lindsay, from Pontefract, West Yorkshire, said: “We got a call from the owners of the restaurant - they sent us CCTV in which you see a glass be lifted up and throw itself at the bar. They said the staff were frightened, they kept hearing and seeing strange things.



MERCURY

The East Drive Paranormal team picked up a small figure on infrared monitors

“As soon as we got inside things started happening pretty quickly. We sensed the presence of a man in his fifties. He seemed pretty annoyed - the restaurant had only recently opened and there had been decorating going on which we think had disturbed his place, and he was not happy about it.

Everyone felt unwelcome, like we needed to leave, and this is the same feeling members of staff there have reported

Medium Jason Lindsay

“Everyone felt unwelcome, like we needed to leave, and this is the same feeling members of staff there have reported. The atmosphere had everyone on edge.

“We used a thermal imaging camera to take pictures and caught the image of a face behind the door - it looked just like there was a person stood there.

“We think it was definitely the same spirit we could feel, the photo is so clear. There was definitely no one else in the kitchen at all when the image was taken, we were all sat round the table.

The mediums were called in after staff reported seeing inexplicable events

They filmed a glass mysteriously flying off the bar

MERCURY

MERCURY

“We were all shocked. When I looked back at the photos, I realised it actually does look like Jason Voorhees from Friday the 13th.

“It definitely looks like a man in a mask and the character in the film is very similar to the spirit that was there. He wasn't welcoming and he made us feel uneasy.”

East Drive Paranormal, who formed to investigate 30 East Drive in Pontefract, the site of one of Europe's most notorious and powerful alleged hauntings, visited the restaurant in November.

The establishment had sent them strange CCTV footage which apparently shows a glass being thrown from the bar by an invisible hand while staff members Josh Frith and Caitlin Baxby chat nearby.

Mr Lindsay said soon after arriving at the restaurant many of the investigators began feeling sick and suffering from pressure headaches, something they have felt before when unwelcoming spirits are present.

They sensed the presence of a man in his fifties they believe was a former criminal who was hung at an old police station or courthouse close to the building. They also witnessed other unexplained activity such as a fork mysteriously falling onto the floor, heard strange tapping noises and picked up recordings of murmuring, humming and chanting.

The group even made contact with the spirit of a female child ghost they believe haunts the building after a small figure was picked up on infrared monitors stood next to medium Carol Fieldhouse.

Mr Lindsay, who has been a medium for the last six years, said: “Within minutes of arriving team members started getting tension headaches, which is something we have felt before when negative spirits are present, and two people began feeling sick.

“Many years ago there used to be an old police station and court house just up the road where criminals were kept and hung - we think that is what happened to this man.

“Underneath Wakefield there are tunnels which led between the police station, prison and court house - one of them is directly under the restaurant - so we think his body must be buried close by.

“After a few hours we managed to make contact with the male spirit and we told him it was not his premises and that he needed to leave the staff members alone.

“Later in the night as Carol was talking she felt the presence of a young girl close to her, a child or a teenager. This was picked up by the infrared movement monitors, you can see someone standing next to her.

“The whole thing was quite scary for us. But Carol and I work together and we would never do anything alone in case something went wrong.“

In the CCTV clip filmed in New York Italian Kitchen in November, a glass tumbler can be seen mysteriously toppling off a black tray on the bar.

And owner Josh Frith, 23, said the restaurant's bizarre paranormal activity has continued since the East Drive Paranormal team's visit.

Mr Frith said: “It is all a bit spooky, we don't have an explanation for what has been happening.

“It has freaked out some of the staff - the girls won't be in the building on their own - but some customers come to us because they have heard about the paranormal activity.

“The glass which was caught moving on CCTV is the most extreme thing we've ever had happen, the worst one.

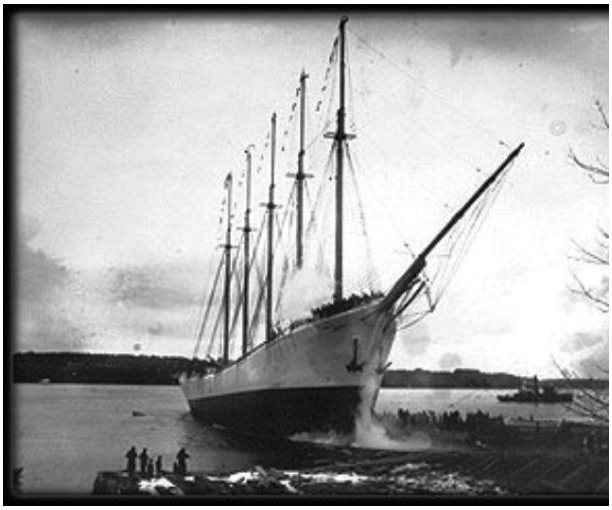
“But recently a jar of peppercorns were thrown off a high shelf and landed upside down in the kitchen, but none of the peppercorns came out of the jar. It was like someone had grabbed it and placed it upside down.”

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Ghost ship found off Hatteras 96 years ago today remains an unsolved mystery

pilotonline.com

The Virginian-Pilot
PilotOnline.com



Carroll Deering

- Photo courtesy of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

The Carroll Deering

The ship's bell from the Carroll A. Deering, a schooner that wrecked off Hatteras in 1921.

HATTERAS VILLAGE, N.C.

A five-masted schooner slammed into shoals off Hatteras 96 years ago today with sails fully engaged – and not one soul on board.

Only a healthy six-toed cat greeted the Coast Guardsmen sent to the rescue.

The Carroll A. Deering has been known ever since as the "ghost ship."

"This is still one of the great unsolved maritime mysteries," said Joe Schwarzer, director of the North Carolina Maritime Museums. "There are any number of potential explanations for it."

At least five government agencies, including the Coast Guard and the FBI, investigated the wreck while family members and locals could only speculate about what happened.

The 225-foot Deering left Boston and picked up a load of coal in Norfolk in late 1920, bound for South America. The Deering company hired W.B. Wormell to replace Capt. William Merritt, who became too sick to make the voyage.

The Deering was on its return trip when it was sighted under sail Jan. 28, 1921, from the lightship at Cape Fear, south of Wilmington, Schwarzer said.

At 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 31, Coast Guard surfman Andrew Gray of Station 183 was on patrol when he spotted the schooner stranded on the outer edge of Diamond Shoals. Heavy waves prevented rescue boats from getting close enough to board.

"The schooner was driven high up on the shoals in a boiling bed of breakers," according to an original report provided by the Outer Banks History Center.

The schooner's lifeboats were gone and there was "no sign of life," another report said.

Rescue crews returned four days later, after conditions improved.

They found food on the galley stove, clothing in lockers, three pairs of boots in the captain's cabin, and a bed recently slept in, according to a 1921 Virginian-Pilot report.

Crews took ashore a gray six-toed cat found in good condition on board. It is believed the cat left a line of six-toed progeny on the Outer Banks, including one that lives today around the Hatteras ferry docks, historian Danny Couch said.

The crew may have abandoned the ship at sea and tried unsuccessfully to reach the shore in lifeboats. The U.S. Weather Bureau said a series of hurricanes in the Atlantic may have caused the Deering and other ships at the time to wreck or disappear. But the ghost ship lodged on the shoals in good shape.

A steamship in the area, the Hewitt, could have taken the crew aboard to save them from a storm, Schwarzer said. The Hewitt later sank with all its crew and possibly took down the Deering survivors with it.

Capt. Wormell's widow and some shipping officials believed pirates raided the ship and killed the crew. The Bath, N.C., Daily Times reported in June 1921:

"Romantic and impossible as pirate theories appear to be in these modern days, the investigation conducted by the allied departments … seems to substantiate the belief that a torpedo boat chaser purchased from some foreign government … has been outfitted as a pirate craft and is preying upon vessels in the South Atlantic."

Papers found at a Russian communist office in New York called for members to seize U.S ships. The Deering could have been one of the targets, according to reports of the day.

Three other ships disappeared around the same time, raising speculation that it was the work of pirates or Russians. Rum runners – illegal alcohol smugglers – also were suspected of taking the ship and "dashing off into the darkness."

Or the men could have mutinied.

Wormell told a friend on Barbados during the voyage that he had no faith in his crew. The crew likely would have kept the ship and sailed away rather than beach her, a report said.

But searches along the Eastern Seaboard never turned up any bodies, boats or conclusive evidence.

Meanwhile, locals salvaged parts of the ship. The Coast Guard blew up the remains to eliminate it as a navigation hazard. Beams from the ship are exposed at times on an Ocracoke beach, Schwarzer said.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum exhibits artifacts including the ship's bell, a flask and a steam-powered windlass, or winch.

Still missing is an explanation.

"It's such an alluring story because nobody was ever able to solve it," Schwarzer said.

Jeff Hampton

© 2016 | The Virginian-Pilot | pilotonline.com | 150 W. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA

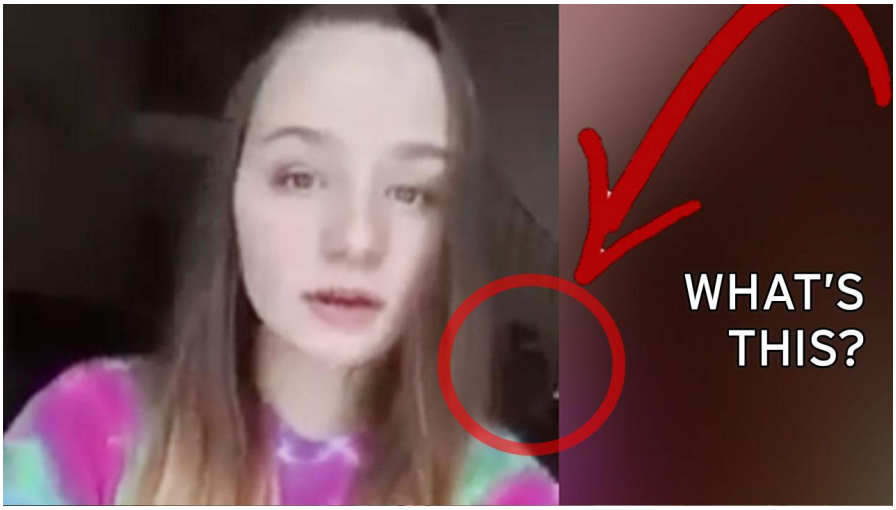
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Ghost in hijab' appears over young girl's shoulder in singing video

By Kara O'Neill 15:32, 19 JAN 2017 Updated 15:34, 19 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

The young girl was reportedly home alone at the time of the recording and was terrified by what she saw when she watched the footage back



A terrifying video appears to show a 'ghost in a hijab' appear over a young girl's shoulder as she was singing to her webcam and getting ready to post her video online.

The young girl was singing her own version of the song Count on Me by Bruno Mars when she decided to record her performance.

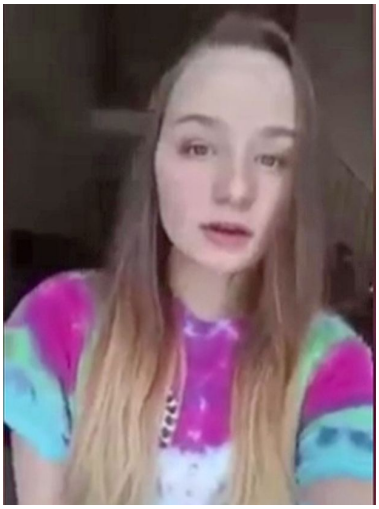
But when she watched the video back, she was completely terrified by what she saw.

In the background, on the right hand side of the screen, a shadowy figure suddenly appears in the background.

It seems to walk past the camera before disappearing completely.

Stomach-churning moment plumber is covered in stinking raw sewage after attempting to unblock pipe

According to a caption alongside the footage, the girl thought she was home alone while she was recording, making the strange figure even more terrifying.



The spooky video was posted on YouTube on January 16, with the words: "My friend's cousin was home alone one day making Musical.lys.

"She had uploaded this and didn't realise what was in the background until she reewatched it later...

"It is on the right side of the screen, above her left shoulder. Right in the beginning of the video. The only pet they have is a cat."

But the girl has reportedly already dismissed the cat theory by saying the figure was too large and too quick.

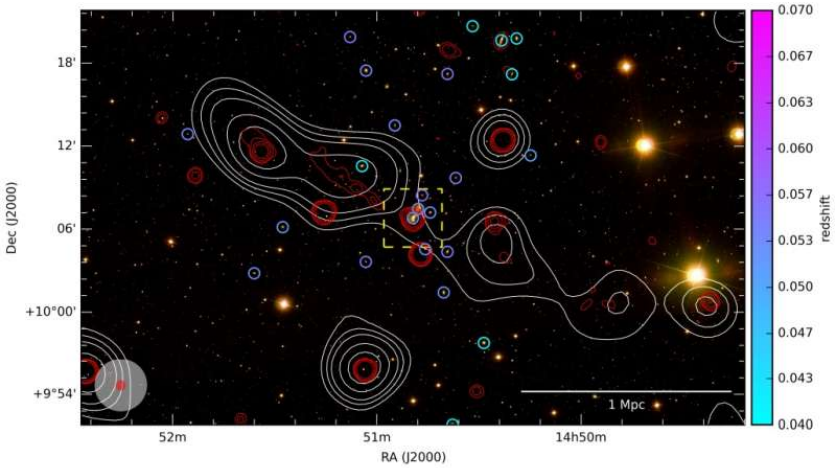
- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Giant radio galaxy discovered by astronomers

phys.org

February 13, 2017 by Tomasz Nowakowski



Giant radio galaxy discovered by astronomers

Background SDSS image (composite from bands g, r and i) overlaid with white MSSS contours of the GRG at 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 times the RMS noise (34 mJy/beam). NVSS contours are overlaid in red at 3, 5, 10 and 20 times the RMS noise (0.55 …more

(Phys.org)—An international team of astronomers reports the discovery of a new giant radio galaxy (GRG) associated with the galaxy triplet known as UGC 9555. The newly discovered galaxy turns out to be one of the largest GRGs so far detected. The findings were presented Feb. 6 in a paper published online on arXiv.org.

Located some 820 million light years away from the Earth, UGC 9555 is a part of a larger group of galaxies designated MSPM 02158. Recently, a team of researchers led by Alex Clarke of the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics in Manchester, U.K., has combed through the data provided by the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) and uncovered new, important information about this distant disturbed galaxy group.

The team has analyzed the data available in the LOFAR Multifrequency Snapshot Sky Survey (MSSS). It is the first northern-sky LOFAR imaging survey that covers the sky north of the celestial equator at frequencies from 119 to 158 MHz in eight separate 2.0 MHz bands. The images obtained as a part of the LOFAR MSSS allowed the scientists to distinguish a new giant radio galaxy.

"We report on the discovery in the LOFAR Multifrequency Snapshot Sky Survey (MSSS) of a giant radio galaxy (GRG) with a projected size of about 2.56 Mpc projected on the sky," the researchers wrote in the paper.

GRG are radio galaxies with an overall projected linear length exceeding 6.5 million light years. They are rare objects grown in low-density environments. GRGs are important for astronomers to study the formation and the evolution of radio sources.

The newly detected GRG which has not received any official designation yet has a projected linear size of 8.34 million light years. This makes it one of the largest GRGs known to date. Currently, with a projected size of approximately 16 million light years, the J1420-0545 holds the title of the largest giant radio galaxy discovered so far.

The team noted that the newly detected GRG has integrated flux density at 142 MHz of 1.54 Jy over the whole dual-lobe emission, including underlying background point sources, which gives a total luminosity at 142 MHz of 11.6 septillion W/Hz.

However, the available LOFAR MSSS and archival radio data are still insufficient to confirm the class of this GRG. Radio sources are divided into two classes: Fanaroff and Riley Class I (FRI), and Class II (FRII).

"We cannot clearly classify this GRG as an FR-I or FR-II source based on its morphology in the MSSS and archival radio data. There are no conclusive enhancements of emission from the resolution of the MSSS data (without the contribution from unassociated point sources) from which to use the standard Fanaroff-Riley classification," the paper reads.

The researchers concluded that the luminosity suggests it is a borderline case between FRI and FR-II, although the large size and therefore old age contributes to a decreased luminosity. They hope that further data gathered from a deep LOFAR observation will clearly classify the properties of this GRG.

Explore further: LOFAR discovers new giant galaxy in all-sky survey

More information: LOFAR MSSS: Discovery of a 2.56 Mpc giant radio galaxy associated with a disturbed galaxy group, arXiv:1702.01571 [astro-ph.GA] arxiv.org/abs/1702.01571

Abstract
We report on the discovery in the LOFAR Multifrequency Snapshot Sky Survey (MSSS) of a giant radio galaxy (GRG) with a projected size of 2.56±0.07 Mpc projected on the sky. It is associated with the galaxy triplet UGC 9555, within which one is identified as a broad-line galaxy in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) at a redshift of 0.05453±1×10−5, and with a velocity dispersion of 215.86±6.34 km/s. From archival radio observations we see that this galaxy hosts a compact flat-spectrum radio source, and we conclude that it is the active galactic nucleus (AGN) responsible for generating the radio lobes. The radio luminosity distribution of the jets, and the broad-line classification of the host AGN, indicate this GRG is orientated well out of the plane of the sky, making its physical size one of the largest known for any GRG. Analysis of the infrared data suggests that the host is a lenticular type galaxy with a large stellar mass (log M/M⊙=11.56±0.12), and a moderate star formation rate (1.2±0.3 M⊙/year). Spatially smoothing the SDSS images shows the system around UGC 9555 to be significantly disturbed, with a prominent extension to the south-east. Overall, the evidence suggests this host galaxy has undergone one or more recent moderate merger events and is also experiencing tidal interactions with surrounding galaxies, which have caused the star formation and provided the supply of gas to trigger and fuel the Mpc-scale radio lobes.

© Phys.org 2003 - 2017, Science X network

© 2017 Phys.org

Giant snakes reported in Adams County and nearby: Monsters of Pennsylvania

By Marcus Schneck | mschneck@pennlive.com | Follow on Twitter on June 22, 2015 at 11:23 AM, updated June 22, 2015 at 2:23 PM

pennlive.com

Giant snakes of 15 to 40 feet in length and a foot in diameter have been reported from the 1800s through the early years of this century. By comparison, the largest confirmed native species of snake, the black rat snake, might grow longer than seven feet.

Most modern reports of the giant snakes originate in the mountains of southern Pennsylvania, from northwestern Adams County west through Franklin, Fulton, Bedford and Somerset counties. The Broad Top Mountain area of Fulton and Bedford counties has been a particular hotspot for modern-day reports as recently as 2003.

Some of the earliest reports came in the 1870s, including a reported nests of the giant reptiles at Devil's Den on Big Roundtop at Gettysburg and a 25- to 35-foot-long black snake swallowing chickens and cats on farms near Allentown.

Specimens and photos of the giant snakes have never been produced.

Chad Arment, author of "Boss Snakes: Stories and Sightings of Giant Snakes in North America," commented, "I don't like the idea of speculation without having an actual body or other physical evidence."

However, he noted there is a genus of large pine snakes that today is found in isolated pockets across the country. Their overall range more than likely once included Pennsylvania. Maybe there's a remnant pocket in the Broad Top area.

Tales of the giant snakes are of interest Arment, who is also the owner of Coachwhip Publications, a publishing company focusing on cryptozoology and other topics by Arment and others. Formerly based in Lancaster County (until moving to Ohio a few years ago), Arment likes to approach cryptids through an historical or scientific perspective, which he defines as "a manner of investigating stories, whether or not there's anything to them, and if there's something to them, what's behind them."

- **Have you seen something?** Share your experience in the comments section below or contact outdoor writer Marcus Schneck at mschneck@comcast.net.

While historical accounts of giant snakes may have been rooted in something real, more modern reports are probably based on escaped or discarded reptiles from the pet trade, according to Loren Coleman, founder of the International Cryptozoology Museum in Portland, Maine.

Boa constrictors - a staple of the pet snake hobby - can press the lower limits of the size reported from the giant snakes. Pythons - another of the more common pet snakes - have no trouble achieving sizes well within that range. It seems every year brings new reports of ever larger anacondas.

Statistics on snakes grown beyond the capacity of their owners and released into the wild are not commonly available, but it is a known and widespread method of disposal of the animals.

Escapes also are not unheard of in the pet snake trade.

In many parts of the southern U.S., such as the Everglades, discarded and escaped exotic snakes are playing havoc with native wildlife and ecosystems.

A Pennsylvania winter likely would do in the exotic snakes, which generally originate in much warmer climes, but not before a large reptile could be spotted many times over several months of freedom.

- Giant snakes aren't the only ones being sighted in Pennsylvania. Check out our stories on UFOs, Bigfoot and sea monsters (rather, lake monsters) in the Keystone State with our **Monsters of Pennsylvania series.**

© 2016 PA Media Group. All rights reserved (About Us).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of PA Media Group.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

WEIRD NEWS

Girl Held At Gunpoint Refused To Give Up Chicken McNugget, Police Say

She reportedly smacked the gun away and told her assailant to leave her alone.

01/14/2017 12:16 pm ET | **Updated** 1 day ago

Hilary Hanson
Viral News Editor, The Huffington Post

REUTERS

New York City police say a 13-year-old girl stood down an armed assailant demanding one of her Chicken McNuggets.

Fast-food lovers are likely in awe over the sheer badassery of a 13-year-old girl who reportedly smacked down a gun held by a boy demanding she give him a McDonald's Chicken McNugget.

The girl told police that her 12-year-old schoolmate first asked her for a McNugget inside McDonald's in New York City's Harlem neighborhood on Tuesday, the New York Daily News reports. When she declined, he allegedly followed her to a subway station, whipped out the weapon and held it to her head.

H **Girl Held At Gunpoint Refused To Give Up Chicken McNugget, Police Say**

away from the boy and told him to leave her alone.

Police didn't recover the gun, but "numerous witnesses" reported seeing it, an NYPD spokesperson told The Huffington Post.

The boy was charged as a juvenile with attempted robbery, according to BuzzFeed. He will be prosecuted in family court.

Also on HuffPost

Ghostery blocked Vidible video player.

More: New York City Mcdonalds Daily News Chicken Mcnuggets

Suggest a correction

Comments

CONVERSATIONS

Advertise RSS Careers FAQ
User Agreement Privacy Comment Policy About Us About Our Ads Contact Us Archive
Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

Girl Held At Gunpoint Refused To Give Up Chicken McNugget, Police Say

Glass Penny Made In TN To Be Auctioned Off

newschannel5.com

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - An experimental penny made of glass during World War II in Tennessee could soon about to be auctioned off for thousands.

Owner Roger Burdette said the coin is the only known unbroken glass penny in existence.

During the war, copper was needed for ammunition. The U.S. Mint authorized tests that included making uncirculated pennies from other metals, plastic and rubber.

The Blue Ridge Glass Co. in Kingsport, Tennessee made experimental pennies using tempered glass.

Burdette said the impressions on the coins weren't precise, the weight and size weren't uniform and the coins developed sharp edges that cut fingers. He says they were likely destroyed. He said only one other glass penny exists and it is broken.

The Mint made 1943 pennies from low-grade steel covered in zinc.

Heritage Auctions in Fort Lauderdale is conducting Wednesday's bidding.

© 2015 The E.W. Scripps Co

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The Latest: 'Glorified firecracker' thrown in restaurant

yahoo.com

https://www.yahoo.com/news/latest-glorified-firecracker-thrown-restaurant-212826582.html

Associated PressFebruary 3, 2017

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Latest on the investigation into an incendiary device that was tossed into a crowded Southern California restaurant (all times local):

1:20 p.m.

Police say a homemade incendiary device thrown into a crowded California restaurant was a "glorified firecracker" that wasn't made to injure anyone.

Pasadena Police Lt. Vasken Gourdikian tells The Associated Press that Thursday night's incident appears to be a "stupid prank."

Police had evacuated customers and employees from the Cheesecake Factory in Pasadena after receiving a report of an explosion shortly after 6 p.m. Thursday.

Gourdikian says investigators believe the device was "made to make a loud bang, which it did." He says the restaurant did not receive a threat before or after the incident.

Witnesses described the man who threw the device as having a heavy beard and wearing all-black clothing and a black beanie

Police are still canvassing the area for surveillance video. They say they haven't yet pinned down a motive.

___

7:25 a.m.

A man dressed in black threw an incendiary device into a popular Southern California restaurant but authorities say no one was injured when it went off.

The incident occurred shortly after 6 p.m. Thursday at a Cheesecake Factory in Pasadena.

A police statement says officers responding to a report of an explosion evacuated customers and employees of the Colorado Boulevard restaurant and found a homemade pyrotechnic device.

A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department bomb squad rendered the device safe.

Police say witnesses described the man who threw the device as having a heavy beard and wearing all black clothing and a black beanie.

The investigation is being handled by city police but federal authorities were notified.

The restaurant is in the historic Old Pasadena dining and shopping district.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Goat Walks Into 7-Eleven, Casually Helps Herself To Some Skittles

huffingtonpost.com

She's tasting the rainbow.

01/18/2017 11:00 am ET
110
Steven Hoffer Senior Editor, The Huffington Post

A goat who clearly decided it was about time she tasted the rainbow was recorded last week munching on Sour Skittles inside an Oregon convenience store.

Witnesses spotted the hungry goat on Thursday at a 7-Eleven in Tigard, just outside of Portland.

Katelyn Lund was at store when the goat started its snacking spree. Her video of the animal went viral, generating over four million views.

"At that point I'm thinking, 'Dude, does no one realize that there's a real life goat in here? And where's your mom?'" Lund told the Oregonian. "It turns out the guy checking out right next to me was her owner, which I found out a couple days later when I went in again."

Lund described the other shoppers as "hella nonchalant" about the goat eating candy from the floor.

Apparently, keeping the candy stock low to the ground where kids can see it has the undesired side-effect of making it susceptible to animals. Recently, a Toronto convenience store appealed to the Internet for suggestions on how to address the candy-crazed squirrels that repeatedly stole sweets.

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Going bananas? Israeli zoo scrambles to find missing monkey

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 17, 2017

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's largest zoo is scrambling to find a monkey who swung out of a tree and escaped from the wildlife park near Tel Aviv.

The "Safari," located in the adjacent city of Ramat Gan, is asking the public to help find Kuner, a 17-year-old wedge-capped capuchin monkey who fled on Monday — likely after a fight with rival males in his enclosure.

Spokeswoman Sagit Horowitz says the 3 kilogram- (6.6 pound-) Kuner is about the size of a cat and poses no danger. She urged people to be careful if they see him and avoid making loud noises that could scare him away.

Kuner briefly escaped 11 years ago, when a storm knocked over a tree trunk that he used as a bridge to walk away. He returned shortly afterward.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The great human float-off: New world record set

sky.com

Thanks to a little help from the salt waters of Lake Epecuen, the attempt smashed the previous record set in Taiwan in 2014.

21:13, UK, Tuesday 31 January 2017

A new world record has been set for human floating by almost 2,000 people in Argentina.

Buoyed by the salty waters of Lake Epecuen, in the Buenos Aires province, some 1, 941 people joined hands and floated to set a new Guinness world record.

A video distributed by local authorities shows huge crowds gathering at the edge of the lake before entering the water.

The participants then join hands and float simultaneously for 30 seconds.

The Guinness Book of Records certified that the stunt easily qualified for new world record status, smashing the record previously set in Sun Moon Lake, Taiwan, in 2014.

On that occasion, 650 people joined hands and used flotation aids to stay buoyant.

This time around, the salt content of the lake meant no such paraphernalia was necessary.

© 2017 Sky UK

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Greek WW2 bomb forces huge Thessaloniki evacuation - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC • 11 February 2017

The bomb is is thought to be one of the largest from World War Two to be found in a Greek city

At least 70,000 people in the Greek city of Thessaloniki are being evacuated so that a 500lb World War Two bomb can be defused, officials say.

It is thought to be one of the largest wartime bombs to be found in urban Greece in addition to being one of the largest mass evacuations.

The bomb was discovered during road works last week and is due to be disposed of on Sunday.

Officials say it is too degraded to tell if it is German or an Allied bomb.

Residents within a radius of about 2km (1.2 miles) of the bomb will be compelled to evacuate the area between now and Sunday morning, security officials have said.

Image copyright AFP
Image caption
Image caption

The bomb was discovered last week near a petrol station during work to expand fuel storage tanks

The operation has been described by one blog as the biggest evacuation of Greek civilians in peacetime. However, it is not possible to verify such a claim.

The military says an operation of this size and complexity is the first of its kind in a densely populated area of Greece and the disposal operation should take about eight hours - but may take as long as two days.

About 1,000 police officers and 300 volunteers will be deployed ahead of the disposal operation. People in the city were warned to vacate their homes several days in advance.

How much of a threat are unexploded bombs?

Athens seeks compensation from Germany for Nazi occupation

The evacuation is expected to cause considerable disruption in Thessaloniki, with about 450 residents of a refugee camp due to be among thousands of others being evacuated to schools, sports halls and cultural centres.

The bomb was discovered last week near a petrol station during work to expand fuel storage tanks.

A state of emergency has been declared in the three municipalities affected by the defusion operation, Thessaloniki's Deputy Governor Voula Patoulidou told the Associated Press. news agency.

"It is the first time something like this is happening in Greece," he said. "The transfer of all residents is mandatory and we will go door-to-door to make sure everyone leaves."

Map

The military say they will initially try to defuse the bomb's detonator before taking the device in its entirety to an army firing range, where a decision will then be taken on how best to neutralise it.

The city's bus terminal will be closed down while trains will also stop operating. There is also expected to be some traffic disruption in addition to interruptions to church services.

One resident of the city told the Associated Press that the bomb was dropped by British and US planes targeting German rail facilities on 17 September 1944.

German forces occupied Greece from 1941 until October 1944.

Image copyright Reuters

Half-ton butter sculpture unveiled at Pennsylvania Farm Show

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 5, 2017

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Signaling the 2017 Pennsylvania Farm Show is about to open, the event's annual butter sculpture has been revealed.

The sculpture unveiled Thursday is called "A Culture of Stewardship." It pays tribute to dairy farmers, who the artists say are stewards of the land, air, water and community.

About a half-ton of butter was used to create the piece, which shows a landscape of farms and undulating hillsides giving way to forest-covered peaks.

Husband and wife suburban Philadelphia sculptor team Jim Victor and Marie Pelton say they think the piece uniquely depicts the characteristics of Pennsylvania.

The farm show gets underway Saturday for the general public at the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex in Harrisburg. It wraps up Jan. 14.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Hamburg airport evacuated after 50 people injured by 'unknown toxin' metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.ukSunday 12 Feb 2017 12:56 pm

The airport was evacuated but has since reopened. (Picture: Axel Heimken/dpa via AP)

Hamburg airport was evacuated today after 68 people were left feeling unwell after 'pepper spray' leaked into its air conditioning system.

It is thought that the substance leaked from a can in a bin near to the security check-in desks in the international airport.

Nine people were taken to hospital and dozens more were left complaining of breathing problems and burning eyes.

The alarm was raised after a nasty odour was smelt around the airport and hundreds of passengers were asked to evacuate the building while all flights were grounded until the issue was resolved.

Passengers were taken to a car park away from the terminal while the problem was dealt with a total of 13 flights affected by the disruption which lasted around 90 minutes.

Hamburg airport evacuated

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Harambe-shaped Cheeto going for nearly $100k on eBay

Posted: 10:07 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017

news965.com

Photo credit: eBay

Samantha Jordan

Proving that you can literally sell ANYTHING on the internet, some lucky bidder could be taking home a Cheeto...shaped like the late, and beloved, gorilla Harambe.

The listing on eBay describes the 'one of a kind Cheeto' as 'rare' and its condition 'new.'

The seller says the Cheeto was discovered by chance.

"I opened up a bag of Flamin Hot Cheetos and as soon as I looked inside I came across this unique Cheetos that looks like Harambe the gorilla," the listing says. "This item up for bid is only for this unique Cheetos, bag not included. This makes a great collectible for anyone who appreciates rare items!"

More than 100 bids later, the mysterious Cheeto was sold for $99,900. Whether the bids are real is anyone's guess.

Harambe, the 17-year-old western lowland gorilla, was killed in May 2016 at the Cincinnati Zoo after a little boy fell into his enclosure.

()

Stay Connected with News 96.5

Stay Connected with News 96.5

© 2017 Cox Media Group. By using this website, you accept the terms of our Visitor Agreement and Privacy Policy, and understand your options regarding Ad Choices

.

Learn about careers at Cox Media Group

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Has ancient Chinese tradition gone up in smoke?

By Tom Rayner, South East Asia correspondent

sky.com

There are fears commercialisation is ruining the centuries-old practice of burning joss paper as an offering to dead relatives.

10:04, UK, Saturday 31 December 2016

The present-buying frenzy of the festive season often prompts questions about whether the true meaning of Christmas has been forgotten.

But it's not just Christians who worry about religious traditions being diluted by consumerism.

The ancient practice of burning joss paper as an offering to dead relatives, practised by millions of adherents of Chinese Taoist-Buddhism around the world, has also taken on a decidedly modern twist.

The ritual of burning letters, metallic paper and fake money at ceremonial furnaces has been observed for centuries.

It's a key part of festivals like Qingming or as an offering to a dead relative, either shortly after they die or on the anniversary of their passing.

It is based on the belief that one can assist a loved one as they progress through the afterlife towards rebirth.

Traditionally such offerings were paper money and written charms or paper talismans that could be used to pay off evil spirits during their journey.

But in recent years there has been a roaring demand for other paper items to send up in smoke to those in the afterlife - paper tablets, smartphones, laptops, sports cars and even private jets are all increasingly popular purchases.

It's now possible to buy and burn paper plasma TVs and iPhones

In the backstreets of Bangkok's China Town, there is an alley where it's possible to buy all these things in the belief a dead relative might need it to be comfortable.

Stalls have stacks of neatly packaged boxes filled with paper credit cards, designer watches and shirts. Even cardboard fans and refrigerators are on hand.

Store owner Waraporn Apisitamournkul told Sky News she relies on her suppliers from China to know exactly what the latest fashion might

be, but when a new delivery arrives "people get excited".

One customer, Kaew Chaikitpattana, was picking up a 42" paper plasma TV that she planned to burn for her father, who died three years ago.

He told Sky News: "It's for him, and my other relatives. They'll be able to use this as they don't have one at the moment."

But there are those that fear the original meaning of this ancient practice is being lost in the desire for the latest goods, and that it's becoming more about showing off in the living world than helping someone in the afterlife.

Raymond Chow, originally from Hong Kong, now runs a foundation for the Thai-Chinese community in Bangkok, and is an expert in the origins of joss paper burning.

He says that while many of the shops selling the paper products are good at explaining to customers how to practise the ritual correctly, there is some deviation going on.

"When their grandfather was alive, he would never use an iPhone or tablets," Mr Chow explained.

"But they burn (paper) iPhones and tablets, and burn Lamborghinis ... the guy will not drive a Lamborghini when he was alive.

"When they buy more things to burn, they are telling people 'we love our parents more, we love our grandparents more', because we buy so much, and you cannot because you are less rich than I am."

© 2017 Sky UK

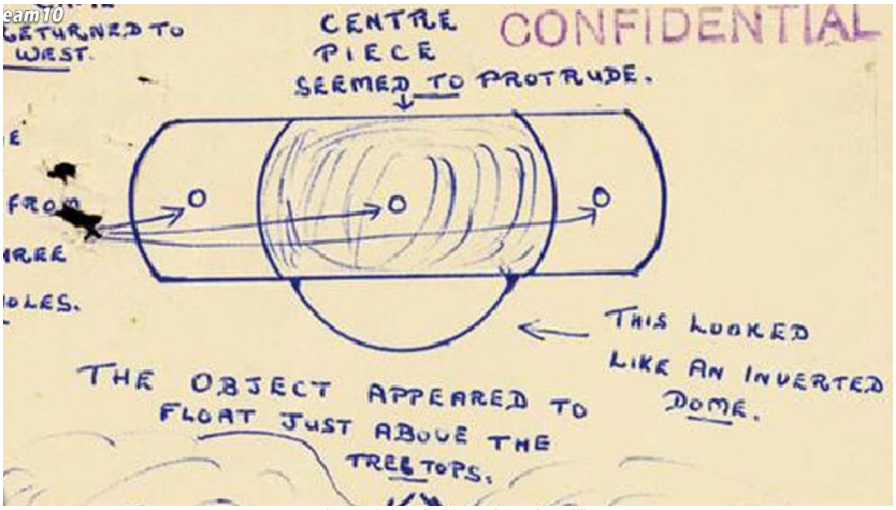
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Top secret documents about UFO's 'prove aliens exist'

By Christopher Bucktin 13:47, 20 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

The declassified papers report on UFO sightings in Norway, Spain and North Africa and the former USSR



**

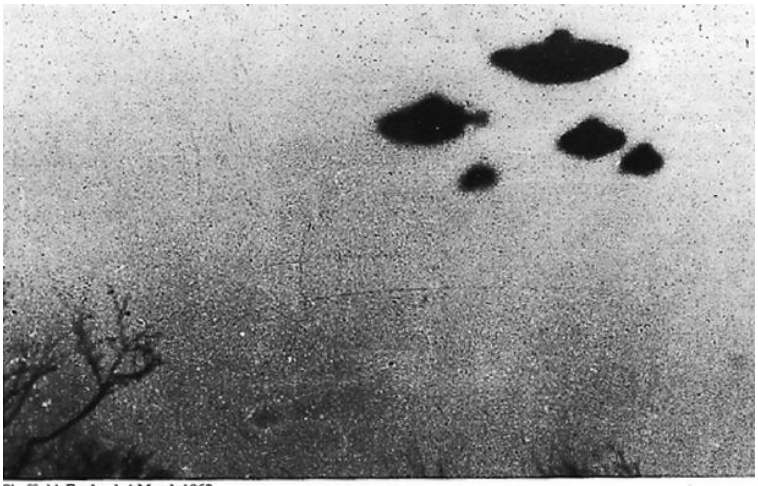
Conspiracy theorists claim documents released by the Central Intelligence Agency prove aliens exist.

The CIA released millions of previously top secret documents this week under the Freedom of Information Act following mounting pressure from activists.

Among the eye-opening discussions featured are Uri Geller , Nazi War criminals, assassinating Fidel Castro and Cold War surveillance.

But the one that has got alien hunters most excited are the numerous documents on UFOs .

There are a number of documents relating to sightings in Norway,Spain and North Africa and the former USSR, but none of these were proven.



Sheffield, England, 4 March 1962

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 20 October 1960

The organisation emphasises the importance of rapid response to any sightings as a matter of national security, following its four phases of air defence; detection, identification, interception and destruction.

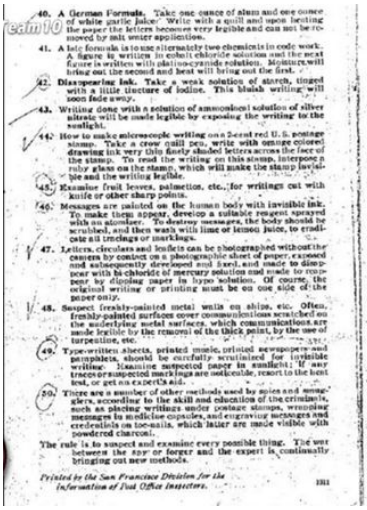
It also reveals that The Unidentified Flying Object Program requires that all US Air Force (USAF) commanders to adhere to strict guidelines that calls for them to report all UFO sightings, including any they have been

The guidelines dictate reports have to contain data points and as much detail on the look of the object as possible- including size, colour, sounds it may have made and any "unusual features."

Despite the excitement over the release, conspiracies theorist Tyler Glockner said in one of his latest Secure Team 10 videos: "When it comes to the intelligence agencies, specifically the CIA, you have to be very suspicious of them - especially any time they are making documents known to the public."

He says this is because the organisation is well-known for "keeping secrets, lying and ousting dictators"

Also revealed in the documents, spanning from the 1940s to the 1990s, is information on spoon



40. **A German Formula.** Take one ounce of alum and one ounce of white garlic juice. Write with a quill and upon heating the paper the letters becomes very legible and can not be removed by salt water application.

41. A lafe formula is to use alternately two chemicals in code work. A figure is written in cobalt chloride solution and the next figure is written with platinous-cyanide solution. Moisture will bring out the second and heat will bring out the first.

42. **Disappearing Ink.** Take a weak solution of starch, tinged with a little tincture of iodine. This bluish writing will soon fade away.

43. Writing done with a solution of ammoniacal solution of silver nitrate will be made legible by exposing the writing to the sunlight.

44. How to make microscopic writing on a 2-cent red U. S. postage stamp. Take a crow quill pen, write with orange colored drawing ink very thin finely shaded letters across the face of the stamp. To read the writing on this stamp, interpose a ruby glass on the stamp, which will make the stamp invisible and the writing legible.

45. Examine fruit leaves, palmetto, etc., for writings cut with knife or other sharp points.

46. Messages are painted on the human body with invisible ink. To make them appear, develop a suitable reagent sprayed with an atomizer. To destroy messages, the body should be scrubbed, and then wash with lime or lemon juice, to eradicate all tracings or markings.

47. Letters, circulars and leaflets can be photographed without the camera by contact on a photographic sheet of paper, exposed and subsequently developed and fixed, and made to disappear with bichloride of mercury solution and made to reappear by dipping paper in hypo solution. Of course, the original writing or printing must be on one side of the paper only.

48. Suspect freshly-painted metal walls on ships, etc. Often, freshly-painted surfaces cover communications scratched on the underlying metal surfaces, which communications are made legible by the removal of the thick paint, by the use of turpentine, etc.

49. Type-written sheets, printed music, printed newspapers and pamphlets, should be carefully scrutinized for invisible writing. Examine suspected paper in sunlight; if any traces or suspected markings are noticeable, resort to the heat test, or get an expert's aid.

50. There are a number of other methods used by spies and smugglers, according to the skill and education of the criminals, such as placing writings under postage stamps, wrapping messages in medicine capsules, and engraving messages and credentials on toe-nails, which latter are made visible with powdered charcoal.

The rule is to suspect and examine every possible thing. The war between the spy or forger and the expert is continually bringing out new methods.

Printed by the San Francisco Division for the information of Post Office Inspectors.

111

INVISIBLE PHOTOGRAPHY AND WRITING, SYMPATHETIC INK, ETC.

CONFIDENTIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

Information Compiled By THEODORE KYTKA, Handwriting Expert, San Francisco, Cal.

Invisible Photographs of writings and printing.—Make a silver print, fixed and bleached in mercury chloride. To make visible, dip in hypo.

1. Sympathetic ink—Chloride of Cobalt—bring out with heat.
2. Cobalt acetate and saltpeter—(heat).
3. Cobalt Chloride and nickel chloride mixed—(heat).
4. Nitric Acid—(heat).
5. Sulphuric Acid—(heat).
6. Sodium Chloride—(heat).
7. Saltpeter—(heat).
8. Copper sulphate and ammonium chloride—(heat).
9. Silver Nitrate—(expose to sunlight).
10. Gold tri-chloride—(sunlight).
11. Ferric sulphate—(bring out with infusion of gall-nuts or ferro-cyanide of potassium).
12. Copper sulphate—(bring out with ferro-cyanide of potassium).
13. Lead vinegar—(bring out with hydrogen sulphide).
14. Mercuric Nitrate—(bring out with hydrogen sulphide).
15. Starch water writing—(bring out with tincture of iodine or resublimate of iodine wafers). (fumes)
16. Cobalt nitrate—(bring out with oxalic acid).
17. Soda lye or sodium carbonate—(bring out with phenol phthalcine).
18. Starch writing on linen, after it becomes dry, is made visible by fumes of iodine or by solution of potassium iodide. The writing becomes blue and disappears again by washing paper with a very weak solution of hypo sulphate of soda.
19. Letters written with a weak solution of the soluble chloride of platinum or iridium develop black when fumed with mercurial vapor. This ink is used for marking linen and is called indelible. This ink is sold in large bottles to laundries, etc. It is often used for smuggling information across the frontier, when the writing is put on handkerchiefs, shirts, underwear, or on inner surfaces.
20. Sulphate of copper, much diluted, used in writing with a soft tooth pick between printed lines. This is developed by fumes of strong ammonia, which makes the invisible writing appear visible.

EXEMPT from Declass. Per E.O. 12065, Sec. 3(b)(1) Per NSC Ltr, 11/26/99

bending aficionado Geller.

US spooks ran tests on Geller to see if his supposed psychic abilities were real – and could be weaponised.

CIA files reveal the Israeli, famed for his ability to seemingly bend spoons with his mind, was taken to Stanford Research Institute in the 1970s.

Following the documents' release Geller told the Mirror how he was repeatedly tested between 1972 to 1976 including at NASA 's Goodard Space Laboratory, the Naval Surface Warfare Centre and a nuclear laboratory.

He claimed the Americans went on to successfully use his telepathic skills to force the Russians to sign the nuclear arms reduction treaty.

And he says he was flown to Geneva where he 'bombarded' the mind of a top Russian nuclear official to make him sign the treaty.

According to the papers, during a week-long series of tests, scientists placed Geller in a sealed room covered by monitors.

Once inside a random word was selected from the dictionary. The first chosen was 'fuse'.

To illustrate the word a research assistant drew a firecracker away from Geller before then taping the sketch to a wall outside the room.

Geller, now 70, was then asked to use his psychic power to draw what he thought the word was.

The CIA documents say: "His almost immediate response was that he saw a 'cylinder with noise coming out of it'.

"His drawing to correspond with it was a drum, along with a number of cylindrical-looking objects."

The second word chosen was "bunch" and a scientist drew a bunch of grapes.

The report states: "Geller's immediate response was that he saw 'drops of water coming out of the picture'.

"He then talked about 'purple circles'.

"Finally, he said that he was quite sure that he had the picture. His drawing was indeed a bunch of grapes.

Scientists concluded Geller had "demonstrated his paranormal perceptual ability in a convincing and unambiguous manner".

The tests formed part of the Stargate Project, which dealt with psychic powers and extrasensory perception.

Speaking to the Mirror on Wednesday from his home in Israel, Geller said: "The release of these secret documents surprises me because I continued working for the CIA after those experiments and I am very surprised they allowed such information out."

Explaining why he felt he was targeted by US intelligence, he said: "They probably made a deal with Mossad, the Israeli secret service, to get me out of Israel in 1972."

Recalling the tests, said he was tested at numerous facilities before then going on to work abroad for the CIA.

"The CIA tested me at Stanford Research Institute, and I passed all the sets under laboratory controlled conditions, and I did that twice, so there was no way of cheating or hoodwinking them.

“Although I am very controversial, the controversy around me was actually very good for me, in a way it was intentional because I had to have a cover. It was like an in built safety device for me, the controversy.

“The CIA then tested me at the American Surface Weapons Centre, which very people few people know, that was in Maryland.

“Then the most extraordinary tests were done at the Lawns Livermore Radiation Labs, where they carry out nuclear research. They wanted to see if my mind could trigger a nuclear weapon.”

Detailing how he helped broker a nuclear arms deal with Russia claimed: “Washington wanted me to convince the Russians to sign the nuclear arms reduction treaty telepathically.

“So Senator Claiborne Pell, who was the head of the American foreign relations committee flew to my house in England and convinced me to do that.

“Then he sent Ambassador Max Kempleman, who was presidential star winner, and they took me to Geneva.

“I got very close to Yuli Vorontsov who was the head Russian nuclear negotiator. I know it sounds fantastical, scene fiction, but I actually bombarded his mind to sign the treaty and they signed.

“Of course, I cannot take full credit, but there is no doubt in my mind I convinced him telepathically.”

also claimed he was responsible for seeing the Americans ploughing millions of dollars into telepathic research after meeting President Jimmy Carter.

“A high-ranking agent called Kit Green called me,” he explained.

“He said to me “I want to test to your personally’. He was sitting in Langley, Virginia.

“Green said ‘I want you to tell me something. Convince me’. So I said to him. ‘well grab a book in your office, any book?” and I described the picture in the book. I said ’I am getting the word ‘architect’.

“The agent freaked out as I described the picture. That convinced him, and that is why the CIA got millions of dollars in finance.

“Then the CIA asked me to convince President Carter.

“So they managed to get me into the White House, I grabbed President Carter by the hand on his inauguration day, I looked directly into his eyes, and telepathically I ordered him to let millions of dollars into physic research which he did.”

The release of the secret documents came after lengthy efforts from freedom of information advocates and a lawsuit against the CIA.

The full archive is made up of almost 800,000 files.

They had previously only been accessible at the National Archives in Maryland.

The trove includes the papers of Henry Kissinger, who served as secretary of state under presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, as well as several hundred thousand pages of intelligence analysis and science research and development.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Hasbro Leaves New Monopoly Pieces To Internet Voting, Because What Could Go Wrong?

huffingtonpost.com

Voting is limited to 64 preselected tokens.

01/10/2017 04:17 pm ET
Ryan GrenobleReporter, The Huffington Post

In 2007, the internet named a humpback whale — that most regal of ocean creatures — “Mr Splashy Pants.”

In 2012, it sent Miami rap artist Pitbull to perform at a remote Walmart in Kodiak, Alaska.

And in 2016, it voted to name a pricey new polar research vessel “Boaty McBoatface.”

Despite these cautionary tales, toy company Hasbro has turned over voting on new Monopoly tokens to, yes, the internet. All eight of the classic board game’s current tokens (the Scottie dog, top hat, car, thimble, boot, wheelbarrow, battleship and cat) may all be voted out for new ones, or could be retained individually.

(The cat joined the game only recently, having replaced the iron, a staple since the 1930s, in 2013.)

Wisely, executives aren’t entirely playing a game of chance, and have limited voting to 64 preselected options, including the current eight tokens.

Among the new tokens are some decidedly 21st century options, including a cellphone, “#” (aka, the symbol used to denote a hashtag), aviator sunglasses and several variations of smiley-face emojis.

Voting ends Jan. 31. The winning tokens will be announced on March 19, which Hasbro has dubbed “World Monopoly Day.”

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Inside abandoned village that 'harvested brains from dead patients'

By Patrick Lion 17:40, 11 JAN 2017 Updated 18:15, 11 JAN 2017 News mirror.co.uk

Haunting photos reveal inside abandoned mental treatment village that neglected child patients and 'harvested brains from dead residents'

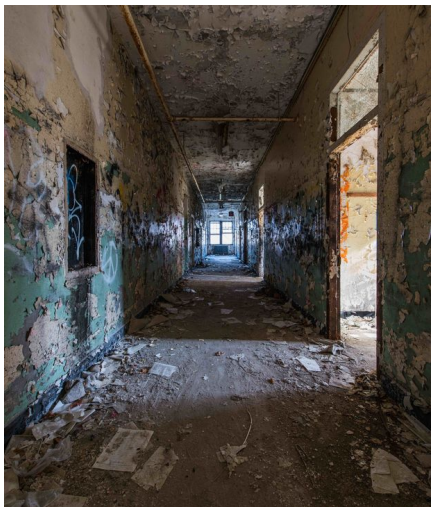
More than a century after it opened with big ambitions, Letchworth Village is now strewn with broken furniture, graffiti and smashed windows

It was once modelled as a new humane type of health institution for the mentally and physically disabled.

But Letchworth Village soon developed an infamous reputation for dubious experimentation and neglect of patients, many of whom were children.

And now these haunting photos now show the village itself has fallen into neglect.

The site was dreamed up by William Letchworth, who proposed self-contained and self-sustained small cottages on a working farm.



This, he felt, would allow residents a more humane and productive lifestyle.

More than 130 buildings were built over 2,000-acres of fields and woods, with the facilities including dormitories, dining halls, a hospital and staff housing.

While the plan was approved in 1907 and opened in 1911, Letchworth died before the first residents were admitted.

The site was located in Haverstraw in Rockland County, New York State, USA.

But a government report in 1929 showed there were three categories of a "feeble-mindedness" person considered for the facility: the "moron" group, the "imbecile" group, and the "idiot" group.

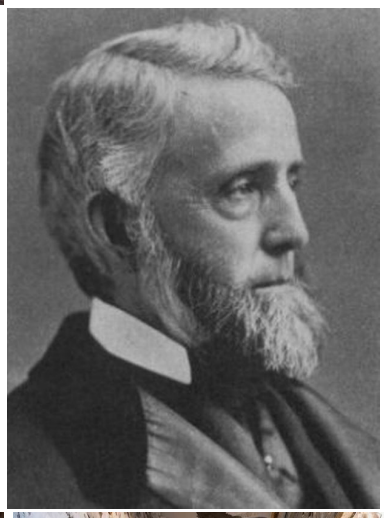
The latter would not be taken to the village because they were of no benefit to the state, Autopsy Architecture reports.

And visitors to the site were also reportedly observing malnourished and sick children, with claims of a scarcity of food and water.

More than 1200 patients were treated there by 1921 but the children were said to be subjected to testing and cruel neglect.

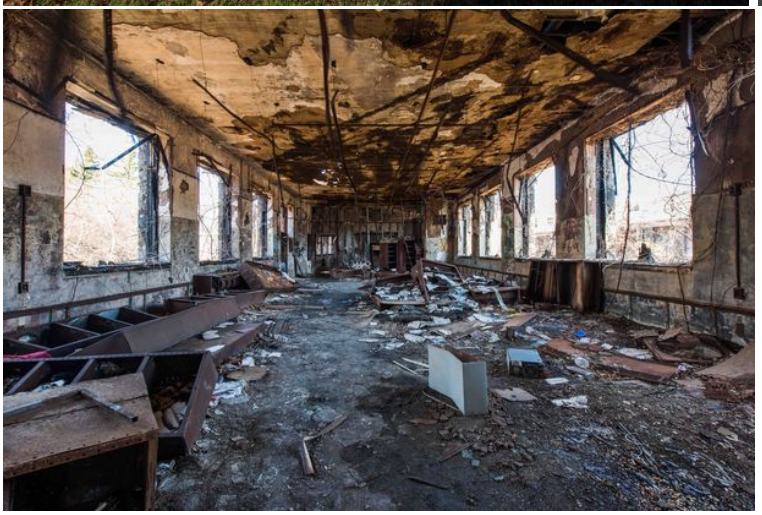
The conditions - with patients dirty and unkept, naked and huddled in sterile rooms - were exposed in the 1940s.

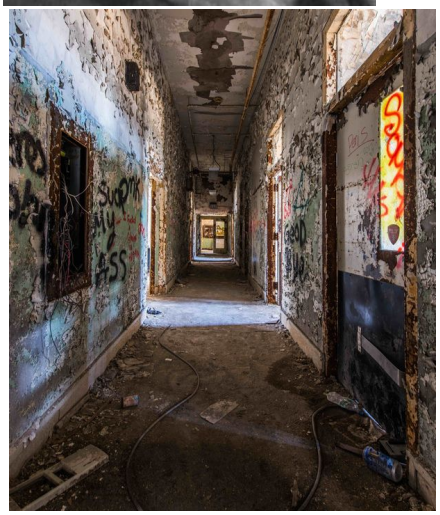
The population increased to 4000 in the 1950s as more families abandoned their relatives.



It was in the village that children were used to test the polio vaccine - the first human trials in the world.

But the site was also reportedly hosted more controversial procedures.





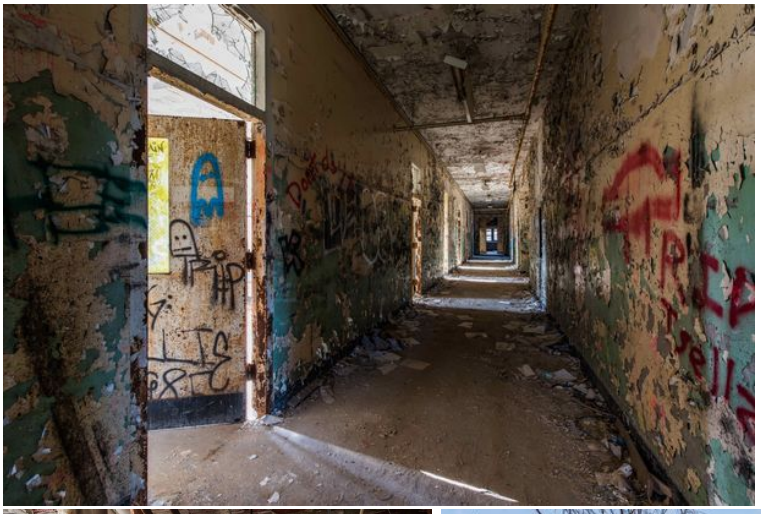
“Brain specimens were harvested from deceased residents and stored in jars of formaldehyde, put on display in the hospital lab," Abandoned NYC said.

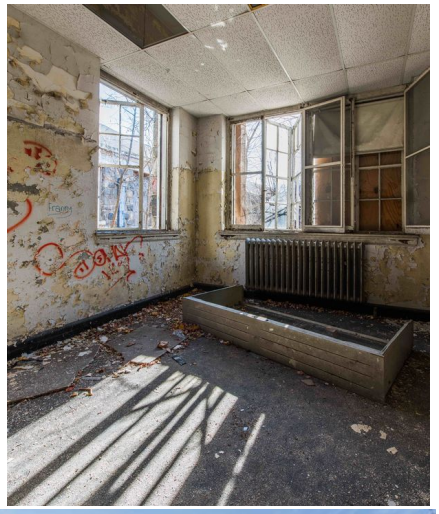
"This horrific practice has become a favorite anecdote of ghost-hunters and adolescent explorers.”

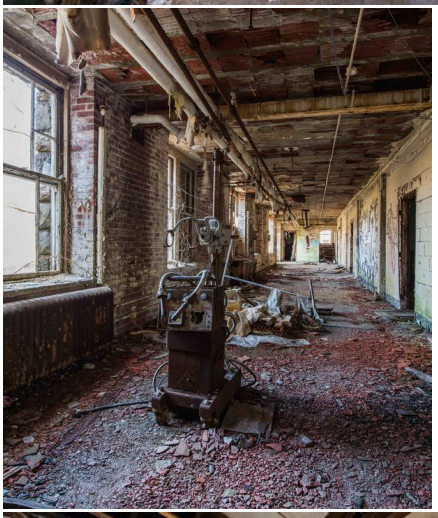
Subsequent media investigations in the 1970s also exposed similarly poor conditions as found earlier.

But it was not until 1996 until Letchworth was finally closed.

- © 2016 MGN Limited







/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Haunting pictures show the decline of Britain's seaside towns

dailymail.co.uk

All washed up: Haunting pictures show how Britain's most loved seaside towns have declined over the last 30 years

- **Coastal towns such as Margate, Blackpool and Skegness used to be jam-packed with tourists in the summer**
- **However, over the last thirty years footfall has dropped sharply due to package holidays overseas**
- **This has led to a crash in the tourism industry and closure of hotels, theme parks and other attractions**
- **Now, many of them have been demolished, abandoned or boarded up as their towns struggle to replace them**

By Paddy Dinham For Mailonline

As modern British families jet off on holidays to Europe, America and even further afield, they leave behind the traditional domestic seaside holiday.

In the mid-20 Century, fun fairs, Butlin's camps and packed shores were the archetypal image of the summer months.

Now, that has all been left in the wake of package vacations overseas, but for those who call these former-havens home, the dearth in footfall has had a profound effect on their economies.

Now - in most cases - entire theme parks have been raised to the ground, previously popular attractions lie dormant, boarded up and covered in graffiti, while cafes and hotels have closed their doors in large numbers.

But the images of more affluent times allow us to look at examples of just how much some of UK's top tourist towns have suffered over the last three decades.

Rhyl

Slide me

One of the most popular attractions throughout much of the 20th Century was the Ocean Beach fun fair, but its 2007 closure after 53 years typifies the town's struggles in more recent times

This Welsh seaside town was another popular tourist spot for those in Wales and the west of England who fancied a trip to the seaside.

One of the most popular attractions throughout much of the 20th Century was the Ocean Beach fun fair

But its 2007 closure after 53 years typifies the town's struggles in more recent times

In Victorian times it was considered an elegant resort, tourists used to flock to the seafront from as far afield as Manchester and Liverpool.

One of the most popular attractions throughout much of the 20th Century was the Ocean Beach fun fair, but its 2007 closure after 53 years typifies the town's struggles in more recent times.

A series of regeneration projects are currently being explored in a bid to get the town's economy thriving again.

Jaywick

Slide me

Jaywick has the greatest number of young people not in employment, education or training, with one third claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Jaywick��has the greatest number of young people not in employment, education or training, with one third claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Of all the seaside towns to slide into recession in recent years, Jaywick has been perhaps hit harder than any.

Once billed as an idyllic seaside holiday village, it’s now blighted by dilapidated homes, boarded-up shops and discarded mattresses.

One third of its residents are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

In 2013, it was ranked as the most deprived of all 32,482 small wards in England and Wales.

It also has the greatest number of young people not in employment, education or training, with one third claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

Of all the seaside towns to slide into recession in recent years, Jaywick has been perhaps hit harder than any, as this wrecked home shows

Once billed as an idyllic seaside holiday village, it’s now blighted by boarded-up shops such as this one

Skegness

Slide me

Where there used to be flocks of families, bags of litter can be seen sitting on the sand and many of the seafront's buildings have been boarded up

This Lincolnshire resort was the picture of British seaside holidays in the mid-20th century and was home to the first ever Butlin's, which opened in 1936.

Nowadays, it is mainly seen as a place to retire, albeit many consider it to be a desirable place to do so.

In 2008 a fire ripped through the Parade Complex and other popular seafront buildings.

As the pictures above demonstrate, where there used to be flocks of families, bags of litter can be seen sitting on the sand and many of the seafront's buildings have been boarded up.

This entire building now serves no purpose other than providing a surface for posters to be put up on the boards where windows used to be

There used to be flocks of families in Skegness

Margate

Slide me

Dreamland continues to operate today, but as you can see from this image, the old front of the park has since been boarded up and has become littered with graffiti

Ever since the early 18th Century, Margate had been a popular tourist destination for people travelling the short distance from London to Kent.

The town was heavily hit during the Second World War, with around 3,000 bombs raining down and destroying almost 300 buildings.

A major storm in 1953 did little to aid its recovery efforts but by the 1960s a good vibe had returned to the town, with families flocking to Margate to enjoy their holidays.

Arguably the main attraction was the Dreamland, the centrepiece of which was the Scenic Railway, but a series of fires and declining numbers led to its closure in 2005.

But now bags of litter can be seen sitting on the sand and many of the seafront's buildings have been boarded up

The park re-opened ten years later thanks to a huge public effort and donations from other theme parks.

Dreamland continues to operate today, but as you can see from the above image, the old front of the park has since been boarded up and has become littered with graffiti.

Blackpool

Crowds at an absolutely packed Blackpool beach watching a Punch & Judy show in 1970. Despite having some attractions, the sands are rarely this crowded these days

Perhaps the largest and most prominent of all of the UK's seaside resorts, Blackpool still has many reasons for visitors to come.

The Blackpool Tower, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the town's branch of Madame Tussauds still remain popular and are able to draw in crowds.

However, if you look further into the town beyond these iconic attractions, it makes its comparison as being the Las Vegas of Britain somewhat questionable.

Rather than the shining lights of casinos and hotels and casinos, much of Blackpool beyond the promenade consists of run-down B&Bs and boarded up cafes.

Rather than the shining lights of casinos and hotels and casinos, much of Blackpool beyond the promenade consists of run-down B&Bs and boarded up cafes

Hastings

Slide me

This image shows an Olympic-szied swimming pool and diving complex that opened in the St Leonard's area in 1933.��However, as you can now see, it closed in 1986 and has since been demolished and remains a bare patch of dying grass, typifying the crash of the tourism industry within the town

This image shows an Olympic-szied swimming pool and diving complex that opened in the St Leonard's area in 1933

Despite still being most famous for a near-1,000-year-old battle, Hastings was also a popular seaside resort in the modern era.

The image above shows an Olympic-szied swimming pool and diving complex that opened in the St Leonard's area in 1933.

It was widely regarded as one of the best facilities of its kind in Europe and attracted visitors from far and wide.

However, as you can now see, it closed in 1986 and has since been demolished and remains a bare patch of dying grass, typifying the crash of the tourism industry within the town.

However, as you can now see, it closed in 1986 and has since been demolished and remains a bare patch of dying grass, typifying the crash of the tourism industry within the town

Morecambe

Slide me

Unlike Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Morecambe's Frontierland - which was actually owned by the same family - suffered a huge decline in numbers and was forced to close down in 2000

Just up the Lancashire coast from Blackpool lies Morecambe, which used to be a popular tourist attraction with a bustling theme park.

Potted shrimps were also a local delicacy that gave the town its own unique twist to the seaside holiday.

However, unlike its neighbour's Pleasure Beach, the town's Frontierland - which was actually owned by the same family - suffered a huge decline in numbers and was forced to close down in 2000.

Unlike Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Morecambe's Frontierland - which was actually owned by the same family - suffered a huge decline in numbers

It was forced to close down in 2000

Although events such as a kite festival and a jazz festival continue to provide entertainment for locals, the tourism industry has crashed, particularly owing to the loss of both of its piers.

The Wild West theme park used to be a favourite for tourists, but now lies in tatters. The boarded up log flume formed part of a ghost town for a while, but the whole park has now been demolished except for the Polo tower

Outside of Frontierland, Morecambe has many buildings on its seafront that have become boarded up and littered with graffiti

Ramsgate

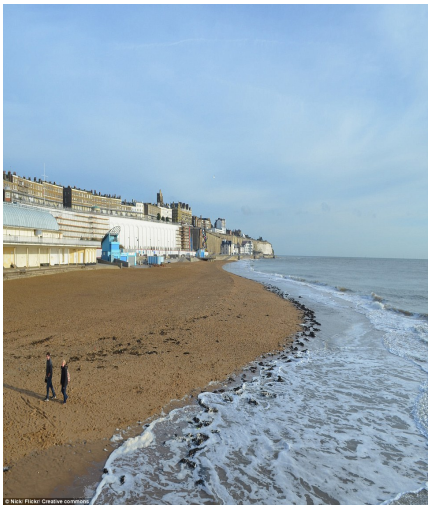
Another Kent resort, although the town's fishing port has allowed it to thrive somewhat more than its near neighbour, Margate.

One of the town's most famous inhabitants was Vincent van Gogh, and in a letter to his brother he wrote 'There's a harbour full of all kinds of ships, closed in by stone jetties running into the sea on which one can walk. And further out one sees the sea in its natural state, and that's beautiful.'

Although the beaches in the town bring in less tourists than they did several years ago, the marina still relatively thrives thanks to some modernisation work done to the seafront.

Despite maintaining a strong fishing economy for many years, even this is now in decline and unemployment in Ramsgate stands at around double the national average of 2.5 per cent.

Morecambe beach circa 1880



Unemployment in Ramsgate stands at around double the national average of 2.5 per cent

Slide me

Despite maintaining a strong fishing economy for many years, even this is now in decline and unemployment in Ramsgate stands at around double the national average of 2.5 per cent

Comments (487)

The comments below have not been moderated.

CountCiano, Rome, Italy, 12 hours ago

In Blackpool I once saw on an hotel one of the most frightening notices I have ever come across :- Home of the Famous 3am Curry.

Neo, Leeds, United Kingdom, 13 hours ago

Expect these places to be revived, Europe is now a no go for a holiday thanks to terrorism.

DevilKnight, North, United Kingdom, 13 hours ago

Nobody decent goes to these places as its full of skogheads drunk and vomiting injecting drugs leaving their kids running wild.

CountCiano, Rome, Italy, 14 hours ago

No report about New Brighton? It used to have a tower like Blackpool's and a football league team. Last time I was there the town centre resembled 1945 Berlin.

johny, paris, 14 hours ago

Drug addicts and immigrants parked in holiday resorts at the tax payers expense, which Government big wig, thought that was a way of saving the resorts.

null, 14 hours ago

If holidaying abroad wasn't the same price, or worse still cheaper than the likes of Butlin's etc more people would go!

Dave, Farnborough, United Kingdom, 14 hours ago

I used to go to Margate a lot when I was in my teens and early 20's, Dreamland during the day then Bali Hai at night. Great times. Seems so many coast towns have gone to pot now, overrun by drug addicts and immigrants. They all look so seedy.

johny, paris, 14 hours ago

In Northern France places you can still find some great holiday resorts. Unlike the Brits the >French never went in for the cheap thrill type of beach area. Deauville has prospered as it offers all round entertainment , conferences, seminars and the American film festival. Plus the race-course near by and a fantastic beach with 4 star hotels along the promenade and top class shops.. It's clear you cannot have a sea side resort, that caters only for the less well off Now they go to Spain and Greece All the run down resorts above have one thing in common, no plan B;

Melanie, Andalucia, Spain, 12 hours ago

Deauville is lovely!

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

We are no longer accepting comments on this article.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

He Knows Where the Bodies are Buried: Gottlieb Pfeffel and the Billing Perplex

esoterx.com

https://esoterx.com/2017/02/07/he-knows-where-the-bodies-are-buried-gottlieb-pfeffel-and-the-billing-perplex/

He Knows Where the Bodies are Buried: Gottlieb Pfeffel and the Billing Perplex

07*Tuesday*Feb 2017

Posted by EsoterX in Anthropology, Folklore, History

"Death is imposed only on creatures, not their creations, and has therefore always appeared in art in a broken form: as allegory" – Theodor W. Adorno

Okay, we know there's one in there.

The problem with being a famous fabulist is nobody takes you seriously, except maybe in an allegorical sense. In its positive sense, a fabulist is just a guy who composes cool fables, while in its far more common pejorative sense he's an inventor of elaborate, dishonest stories. So these days, if someone calls you a fabulist in the street, those are fighting words. Not so much in 18th Century Germany. Take French-German writer, poet, translator, and yes, fabulist, Gottlieb Konrad Pfeffel (1736-1809 A.D.). You haven't heard of him, you cultural savage? Ludwig van Beethoven put Pfeffel's poem *Der freie Mann* to music. Joseph Haydn used his *Philemon und Baucis: Ein Schauspiel in Versen von einem Aufzuge*, a play in verse, for a marionette theater Singspiel. Schubert used his *Der Vatermörder* for a song set to classical music. While neither you nor I have probably heard of Pfeffel before now (my apologies to those with a slightly better classical education, bear with us, we try), let's just say he was pretty well regarded by many luminary artists who were his contemporaries. Needless to say, I'm exceptionally jealous and hate him already.

Except, it's really kind of hard to hate the esteemed Mr. Pfeffel. He was born in Colmar (a little region in the Alsace that kept changing hands between France and Germany) to a gentleman who was mayor of Colmar and a legal consultant to the French king. Sadly, his father died when he was two and his older brother Christian Friedrich Pfeffel raised him. The young Gottlieb had aspirations to become a diplomat, so he went to the University of Halle in 1751 to study law and philosophy. He showed great intellectual acuity, notably translating Johann Joachim Spalding's *Gedanken über den Werth der Gefühle in dem Christenthum* in French, but it also became apparent that he had a serious eye condition. He went to Dresden in 1754 for treatment, and by 1758, after an unsuccessful operation he became completely blind and had to abandon his formal studies. While that absolutely freaking sucked, Pfeffel wasn't about to let that substantially slow him down.

In 1759 he married the charming Margaretha Cleophe Divoux, with whom he had 13 children (six of which survived childhood – the 18th Century still blew when it came to life expectancy, while a slight improvement over the 17th century). He hired some assistants and churned out a few notable

translations of various important works. Like many folks in 18th Century Europe, his fortunes ebbed and flowed. He opened a respected military academy for aristocratic Protestants in 1773, but after the French Revolution he lost his academy and his fortune (luckily, kept his head), but since he was clearly talented, Napoleon I even granted him an annual pension in 1806. Even Voltaire thought he was pretty cool. After he lost his military academy, he puttered around the family estate writing and working for the local board of education. He didn't let his blindness substantially slow him down, rather hired a trustworthy "amanuensis", which is just a fancy way of saying he found somebody good at taking dictation. In this case, said amanuensis was an eighteen-year old candidate for religious orders named Billing, who became Pfeffel's close companion at all times, often taking a break from Pfeffel's prodigious literary endeavors to indulge in strolls together in the expansive gardens of the estate. According to Herr Ehrman of Strasburg, Pfeffel's son-in-law, it was during one of these meanders, a curious phenomenon occurred, one certainly worthy of a famed fabulist.

Pfeffel, being blind, was accustomed to take the arm of this young man, and they walked thus together in Pfeffel's garden, near Colmar. At one spot in the garden, Pfeffel remarked that his companion's arm gave a sudden start, as if he had received an electric shock. Being asked what was the matter, Billing replied, "Nothing." But on their going over the same spot again, the same effect recurred. The young man being pressed to explain the cause of his disturbance, avowed that it arose from a peculiar sensation which he always experienced when in the vicinity of human remains; that it was his impression a human body must be interred there; but that, if Pfeffel would return with him at night, he should be able to speak with greater confidence (Mayo, 1852, p67-68).

Now, Pfeffel was no slouch at telling fanciful tales, but as he appreciated the earnestness of Billing as well as his obvious reluctance to communicate what was disturbing him, quite agreeably decided that it was worthwhile to return to the same spot in the garden that night.

Pfeffel, with the view of curing the youth of what he looked on as fancy, went that night with him to the garden. As they approached the spot in the dark, Billing perceived a feeble light, and when still nearer, he saw a luminous ghostlike figure floating over the spot. This he described as a female form, with one arm laid across the body, the other hanging down, floating in the upright posture, but tranquil, the feet only a hand-breadth or two above the soil. Pfeffel went alone, as the young man declined to follow him, up to the place where the figure was said to be, and struck about in all directions with his stick, besides running actually through the shadow; but the figure was not more affected than a flame would have been; the luminous form, according to Billing always returned to its original position after these experiments. Many things were tried during several months, and numerous companies of people were brought to the spot, but the matter remained the same, and the ghost-seer adhered to his serious assertion, and to the opinion founded on it, that some individual lay buried there (Crowe, 1868, p105-106).

Several of Pfeffel's relatives were similarly conducted to the curious spot in the garden, but nobody else reported any strange sensations or saw any apparitions. Not wishing to further disturb Billing, who was known to be rather excitable and high-strung, as only an eighteen year old evangelical clergyman could be, Pfeffel decided to quietly investigate what lay beneath the spot in the garden while Billing was away for a few days.

At last Pfeffel had the place dug up. At a considerable depth, they came to a firm layer of white lime, about as long and as broad as a grave, tolerably thick; and on breaking through

this, the bones of a human being were discovered. It was thus ascertained that someone had been buried there, and covered with a thick layer of lime, as is usually done in times of pestilence, earthquakes, and similar calamities. The bones were taken out, the grave filled up, the lime mixed up with earth and scattered abroad, and the surface levelled (Maitland, 1855, p8-9).

It's always tough to go ghost hunting in any reputable fashion when there isn't a good backstory to explain what you might find, but "no tradition existed in the place to explain this burial, whether it had been a case of murder, or that the human being here buried had died of pestilence, none could tell—but it was abundantly clear that the burial had taken place at some considerable anterior period" (Baring-Gould, 1928, p27-29). It is of course a tad disturbing to find a corpse buried in your backyard without explanation. While Pfeffel may have been a fabulist extraordinaire, he also was possessed of a keenly logical mind, and resolved to conduct an experiment. Billing, although confident a body was buried in the spot in question, had not been made aware of the discovery of an actual corpse. The location had been scrupulously returned to its natural state after the removal of the body, and thus to it Billing was conducted.

After Billing's return the poet took him once more into the garden, and this time the young man walked over the fatal spot without experiencing the slightest sensation (Schele de Vere , 1873, p251-252).

Enter Baron Carl Ludwig von Reichenbach (1788-1869), a notable chemist, geologist, metallurgist, naturalist, industrialist and philosopher, who in the grand tradition of skepticism offered his scientific take on explaining the absolute mundanity of the event, and furthermore offers us a hypothetical, Rube Goldberg-esque sequence of chemical reactions to prove his thesis.

It is hardly necessary to point out to the reader what I think of this story, which caused much discussion in Germany, because it came to us on the authority of the most trustworthy man alive, and received from theologians and psychologists a thousand frightful interpretations. To my eyes, it belonged entirely to the domain of chemistry, and admitted of a simple and clear scientific explanation. A human corpse is a rich field for chemical changes, for fermentation, putrefaction, gasification, and the play of all manner of affinities. A layer of dry quick lime, compressed into a deep pit, adds its own powerful affinities to organic matters, and lays the foundation of a long and slow action of these affinities. Rain water from above is added; the lime first falls to a mealy powder, and afterwards is converted, by the water which trickles down to it, into a tallow-like external mass, through which the external air penetrates but slowly. Such masses of lime have been found buried in old ruined castles, where they had lain for centuries; and yet the lime has been so fresh, that it has been used for the mortar of new buildings. The carbonic acid of the air, indeed, penetrates to the lime, but so slowly, that in such a place a chemical process occurs which may last for many years. The occurrence in Pfeffel's garden was therefore quite according to natural laws; and since we know that a continual emanation of the flames of the crystalline force accompanies such processes, the fiery appearance is thus explained. It must have continued until the affinities of the lime for carbonic acid, and for the remains of organic matter in the bones, were satisfied, and finally brought into equilibrium (Reichenbach , 1850, p125).

The primary problem of course, is that the only person who seems to have been able to detect the presence of the buried corpse, either through bizarre sensations or the viewing of an apparition was Billing. Dude just sensed a disturbance in "the Force". Nobody else saw or felt anything, nor did

anyone have even the slightest idea what the body was doing in Pfeffel's garden in the first place. We could of course imagine a scenario where this was Pfeffel's last fable, offered posthumously as proof of his genius, but I'm not really seeing a moral lesson to be learned. Maybe, stay away from quicklime? Nasty stuff. At any rate, discerning fact vs. fable when it comes to historical strange phenomena is often an exercise in your own preferred epistemology, for as G.K. Chesterton once said, "Fable is more historical than fact, because fact tells us about one man and fable tells us about a million men".

References

Baring-Gould, S. 1834-1924. A Book of Folklore. London: Collins' clear-type Press, 1928.
Crowe, Catherine, 1790-1876. The Night-side of Nature, or, Ghosts and Ghost Seers. New York: Widdleton, 1868.
Maitland, Samuel Roffey, 1792-1866. Superstition and Science: an Essay. London: Rivingtons, 1855.
Mayo, Herbert, 1796-1852. Popular Superstitions and the Truths Contained Therein: With an Account of Mesmerism. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston, 1852.
Reichenbach, Karl, Freiherr von, 1788-1869. Researches On Magnetism, Electricity, Heat, Light, Crystallization, And Chemical Attraction: In Their Relations to the Vital Force. London: Taylor, Walton and Maberly, 1850.
Schele de Vere, M. 1820-1898. Modern Magic. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1873.
Tuttle, Hudson, 1836-1910. Arcana of Spiritualism: a Manual of Spiritual Science And Philosophy. Boston: Adams & Co., 1871.

2 thoughts on "He Knows Where the Bodies are Buried: Gottlieb Pfeffel and the Billing Perplex"

1.
busterggi*said:*

February 7, 2017 at 12:07 pm

Of course there is always the possibility that Pfellel put the corpse there years earlier.

- floodmouse*said:*

  February 7, 2017 at 3:18 pm

  Oh, ye of little faith.

Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com.

'Poltergeist' moves furniture around in hotel where The Beatles filmed

By Helen Le Caplain 09:49, 20 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Ghost hunters caught the eerie spectre on CCTV footage as it 'opened' a candle lantern door in the bar

**

A group of ghost hunters were stunned after they spotted a poltergeist on a hotel's CCTV camera just metres away from where they were sitting to plan their next investigation.

Selena Wright and pals couldn't believe their eyes as they watched the eerie spectre open a candle lantern door in the hotel bar, the same place where The Beatles filmed their hit movie Help!

The group of friends were enjoying a cup of tea as they scouted for future investigation locations but got more than they bargained for at The Antrobus Hotel in Amesbury, Wiltshire, on Monday.

The CCTV footage shows Selena's friend Karin Beasant chatting away and suddenly turning towards the decorative holder as it flung open in the otherwise deserted bar.

Poltergeist

Founder of Paranormal Wiltshire Selena, 45, said: "We heard one hell of a clicking sound, which unfortunately wasn't caught on the CCTV, it was so loud.

"As the lantern door clicked we all immediately turned and looked at it. We sat there with our jaws wide open, thinking 'is this really happening?'. It was so exciting."

"My friend Colin who's a 'sensitive' [prone to detecting paranormal events] rushed up and did a cold scan but didn't pick up anything."

Ever the sceptic, Selena, from Devizes, Wiltshire, checked the candle was unlit, used a spirit level to check the bar and examined the catch which she found 'stiff' to close.

Mum-of-three Selena said: "We've been sharing the footage with our paranormal friends in a bid to de-bunk it but even our most sceptical contacts are having trouble working it out.

"It's flummoxed us all.

"Even as an investigator I'm really sceptical but I would love there to be something paranormal about it.

"That's the kind of thing you hope and pray for on an investigation, just not when you're really relaxed in the middle of the day having a cup of tea and some biscuits."

The Antrobus Hotel dates back to the 17th century where it started life as a coaching inn within the grounds of an 11th century abbey.

Legend has it that within the hotels expansive cellar network there are several tunnels that lead off to the former abbey and other public houses.

It's believed these would have originally been used by monks during the period of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

Since then the grade II-listed building has been a vicarage and a school for young men before being transformed into a hotel in the 1960s when pop legends The Beatles filmed hit movie Help! there.

General Manager of The Antrobus Hotel Damian Kuczera said that many former employees claim to have experienced unexplained events and sightings within the hotel grounds including apparitions and reports of items moving.

Damian said: "The hotel has a rich, happy history and is well known by guests and staff for strange occurrences, though none of them negative.

"We were fascinated to have captured this moment on camera, but I don't think it comes as a surprise to many of our staff or regulars."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Has Mary Beard found 'reconstruction of Henry VIII's Caesar tapestry'?

08:27 EST, 26 December 2016 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

'It's an impressive piece, but I'm no Indiana Jones': Mary Beard discovers historic tapestry of 'considerable value' in a New York carpet shop

- **Mary Beard was researching Julius Caesar's depiction in European art**
- **She saw a tapestry for sale at the Persian Gallery, a carpet shop in Manhattan**
- **Prof Beard said it bore a likeness to a 16th Century weaving from the same design as the Henry VIII tapestry**

By Isobel Frodsham For Mailonline

A Cambridge professor says she may have stumbled across a reconstruction of a tapestry owned by King Henry VIII in New York.

Mary Beard, a Professor of Classics at Cambridge, was preparing a lecture when she saw a tapestry for sale, through Google images, at the Persian Gallery in Manhattan, which bore a likeness to a later weaving of the tapestry.

During his reign as King, Henry VIII commissioned a series of tapestries about the history of the Roman politician, Julius Caesar.

This is a piece of the famous tapestry that was commissioned by Henry VIII. Mary Beard said she may have seen a 16th century weaving of Caeser breaking into the Treasury for sale at the Persian Gallery in Manhattan

Mary, above, however has said it was lovely seeing it but she is not an 'Indiana Jones'

According to a blog by Mary, the original series of tapestries, which were famously 'lost', are no longer in existence.

However, according to Tom Campbell, the British art historian and director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, several pieces from later weavings from the same designs are still around and were made during the 1560s to 70s.

While researching images of The Twelve Caesars in later art, Mary saw a tapestry, which was remarkably similar to the 16th century weaving of Caeser breaking into the Treasury, was for sale in the gallery.

She wrote on her blog: 'It was a really impressive piece (to my untrained tapestry eye) and matched very closely one of the later weaving series of the 1560s-70s.'

She added the 'twin' was auctioned in Berlin in 1935.

Speaking to the MailOnline, she said: 'These are not "copies" so much as subsequent weavings. Of course it has considerable value as a probably late 16th century tapestry, but I have no idea what.

'I would have thought [the tapestry in New York] was from the same weaving, but I base this on the iconography and border patterns. I am not a technical expert on tapestry.

'It was very nice to see it, and it's an impressive piece, but I am not an Indiana Jones.'

The Persian Gallery in Manhattan, New York

Prof Beard later wrote in her blog: 'I may not be skilled in tapestry dating and there is obviously a theoretical chance that I might be wrong. But the parallel with the Berlin is convincing to me and I would be decidedly unconvinced by any such claim (for that and other reasons).'

Mr Campbell wrote about the original tapestries in 1998.

During his research, he couldn't find the original tapestries but revealed that there were three generations of copies, of which surviving examples are located in royal collections in Rome, Sweden and Portugal, according to The Times.

The original tapestries, which consisted of ten pieces, disappeared in the early 19th century.

They were valued at £5,022 in 1649.

Comments (

Lee, Kingsport, United States, about 2 hours ago

At a loss to understand any of this article???? Where did it come from, wheres it been and where is it now? etc?

Old Iron, Levin, New Zealand, about 4 hours ago

"..... the Roman politician, Julius Caesar....."??! Don't you embarrass yourself when you write something like that? Or are you really so ignorant that you don't even notice anything wrong? How can you aspire to write for a living when the actual concept of writing so completely escapes you?

Mimi Snooks, Ocala, United States, about 5 hours ago

She must think her tired wore our self is some kind of fashion model with that stance!!! Ole crow!

nototheleft, uk, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

She is a gorgeous older woman, I like her very much.

Dance Party, Somewhere, United States, about 3 hours ago

She has brains and class, Mimi. Would that you had a fraction of either of those.

ElsieW, England UK, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

DM - Henry VIII didn't go to New York. As for the rest of the article, please rewrite it so it makes sense!

Angela, London, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

This is sooo badly written. I never knew Henry V111 was ever in New York. I also can't decide when the rug was made either.

Persephone, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

This story is a garbled piece of rubbish. Sack the writer PLEASE!

nototheleft, uk, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

I find her quite attractive in a strange sort of way, I'm 25 and I would for sure.

Scotty Green, Aberdeen, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Why post the headline as a question? The average DM reader wouldn't have a clue if it were authentic or not. Most will never have heard of such a tapestry.

Dave_75_UK, London, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

She is bigging this up to make a load of cash. Trying to make it the Da Vinci story of rugs.

ununitedkingdom, forgotten by all parties, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

A reconstruction of history ! Rewritten by the hierarchy. History is recorded by the victors.

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Hidden Picassos: Court upholds guilty verdict for French couple

thelocal.fr

Hidden Picassos: Court upholds guilty verdict for French couple

AFP
16 December 2016
10:39 CET+01:00

A French court on Friday upheld the two-year suspended sentences of Pablo Picasso's former electrician and his wife, who kept 271 of his artworks stashed in their garage for almost 40 years.

Pierre Le Guennec and his wife were convicted last year of possessing stolen goods for hiding the works from Picasso's heirs.

At his original trial Le Guennec, who is in his late seventies, claimed that Picasso had presented him with the artworks towards the end of his life to reward him for his loyal service.

But he later changed his account, telling the appeal court that the works were part of a huge trove of art that Picasso's widow asked him to conceal after the artist's death in 1973.

He claimed that Jacqueline Picasso later retrieved most of the works but left him a bag containing 180 single pieces and a notebook containing 91 drawings as a gift.

The collection, whose value has not been assessed, includes drawings of women and horses, nine rare Cubist collages from the time Picasso was working with fellow French artist Georges Braque and a work from his "blue period".

Other more intimate works include portraits of Picasso's mistress Fernande, drawings of his first wife Olga and a drawing of a horse for his children.

French authorities seized them after Le Guennec presented them to Picasso's son Claude Ruiz-Picasso in 2010 to try get them authenticated.

Ruiz-Picasso, who represents the artist's six heirs, subsequently pressed charges.

The Local Europe AB
Östgötagatan 12
116 25 Stockholm
Sweden

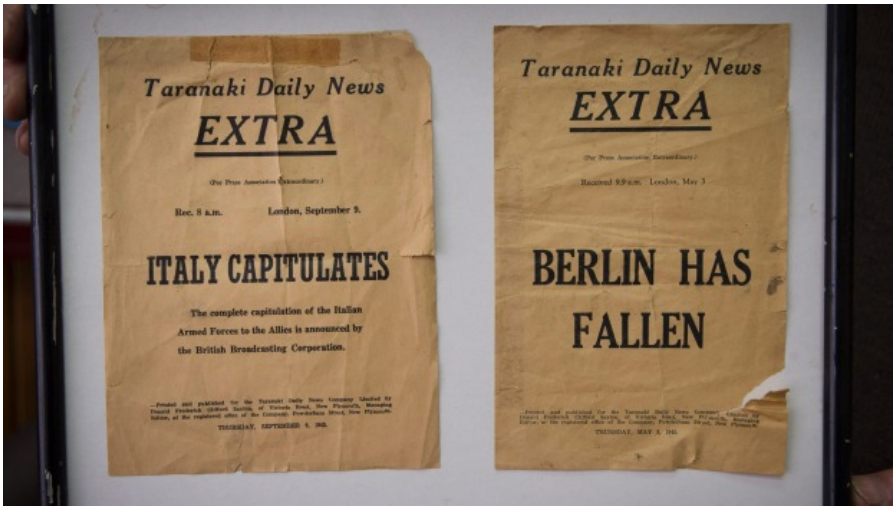
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Extra! Historic posters found in military club clear-out

stuff.co.nz

stuff ANDREW OWEN

Last updated 11:32, January 19 2017



If the Second World War were being fought with today's technology, major events would be flashed around the planet instantly.

Seventy-odd years ago, however, the world was a little bit different.

Rod Arden came across these *Taranaki Daily News* 'extra' fliers during an army reunion at Trentham Camp, in Wellington, and wondered if any reader could shed some light on them.

The first, from Thursday, September 9, 1943, announces "the complete capitulation of the Italian Armed Forces to the Allies", as received at 8am, while the second, from Thursday, May 3, 1945, carries the news that, as of '9.9am' London time, 'Berlin Has Fallen'.

Although someone had once thought to have the posters mounted, the glass had long since been removed and the framed images were no longer wanted by the camp's social venue, the 164 Club.

"The club was clearing out a whole lot of old memorabilia. There were photos and old trophies and stuff, years of collections, and I spotted this," said Arden, of New Plymouth.

"Being from Taranaki, the name was the first thing I noticed, and then I read all this interesting stuff.

"Everything was up for a gold coin donation.

"I thought perhaps these were the original 'Extra, extra read all about its' printed at the time and somehow they've been in Trentham camp for all these years.

"Years and years ago I used to sell the *Taranaki Herald* on the street corners as a paper boy and we used to have a little wire frame with the headlines of the day on it.

"By the thickness of the paper these aren't copies. These are the originals, which would make them 70-odd years old."

According to the small print, the posters were "printed and published for the Taranaki Daily News Company Limited by Donald Frederick Clifford Saxton, of Victoria Road, New Plymouth", back when the paper's registered office was in Powderham St.

"I've got a mate who collects this type of stuff so i just grabbed it," said Arden, who served in the Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1968 to 1972.

"I'd be interested in learning more about them."

- Taranaki Daily News

© 2017 Fairfax New Zealand Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Hold it or don't flush: Super Bowl could harm sinkhole mess

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressFebruary 3, 2017

FRASER, Mich. (AP) — A giant sinkhole in suburban Detroit is being threatened by the Super Bowl.

Macomb County public works chief Candice Miller is worried that thousands of football fans will flush toilets at halftime Sunday night. She tells radio station WWJ that it could overwhelm a broken sewer line blamed for the sinkhole.

Miller says her bathroom advice "sounds crazy." But she fears trouble unless people are willing to hold it — or at least not immediately flush.

Crews are building a bypass to get around the broken sewer line in Fraser, but it's not ready yet. The line affects more than 300,000 people in 11 communities.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has announced grants of up to $100,000 for local governments affected by the sinkhole, which was discovered on Dec. 24.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Ohio school recovers Holocaust survivors' recorded melodies

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressFebruary 3, 2017

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Wire recordings of Holocaust survivors singing melodies at a refugee camp in France in 1946 are being heard for the first time in decades, thanks to university employees in Ohio who pieced together a device to listen to them.

University of Akron officials say the six songs were sung by survivors in Henonville, France, for psychologist David Boder, who was among the first to record Holocaust survivors telling their stories during the 1940s. He recorded on steel wire, capturing the melodies with lyrics in Yiddish and German.

"Dr. Boder was determined to give the survivors a voice," said David Baker, a UA professor of psychology and executive director of the Center for the History of Psychology. "Dr. Boder is credited with being the first person to record testimony of Holocaust survivors."

Boder conducted numerous interviews on wire recorders, which were considered state-of-the-art equipment at the time. He also recorded religious services, folk songs and counseling sessions in addition to his work with Holocaust survivors.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports that one woman sang melodies that had been sung in a Polish ghetto and a forced-labor camp.

Some of Boder's spools were donated to the university in the 1960s and archived, but the content wasn't discovered until a recent project to digitize the recordings.

"It's the most significant discovery from our collections in our 52-year history," Baker said. "That we could give the world the melody to a song sung by those sentenced to their death through forced labor during one of the most unspeakable horrors and trauma of the 20th century is remarkable."

Boder's recordings are also held in the Library of Congress and at UCLA in California. The University of Akron has shared its collection with the national Holocaust Museum in Washington.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Homeless man to attempt dog sled journey from Knoxville to California

Travis Dorman , USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee

knoxnews.com

Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

© 2017 knoxnews.com, All rights reserved.

You may have seen him in Knoxville in recent days.

An unshaven man draped in a poncho, zooming up and down the sidewalks of Cumberland Avenue in a lawn chair atop a long board propelled by two Siberian Huskies.

His name is Georgie Cutright, and he's currently living out of his van, training his rescue dogs - Sarah and Lobos - for what he calls an "urban dog sled" journey across the country. At least one friend will accompany him.

The 2,200-mile or so trek from Knoxville to Venice Beach, Calif., would double the length of the world's longest annual dog sled race, the Iditarod in Alaska.

"I've never actually finished anything in my life, you know?" Cutright, 41, said. "This is something that's going to be really incredible to do, and it's something that I'm really, really adamant about finishing. I just want to spread some joy."

Cutright said that wherever he and his dogs go, "people just smile and videotape and clap, and it just brings a lot of joy and a lot of smiles to the world."

While his makeshift sled was parked in front of the Walgreens along the Cumberland Strip on Tuesday night, pharmacy customers and college students passing by stopped to greet him and fawn over the dogs, who rolled

around on the ground as they fought for attention.

Cutright, originally from Mattoon, Illinois, said he became homeless two years ago after he lost his job as a carpenter. He said he's been unable to secure another steady job because of a felony conviction for an armed robbery when he was 18.

"I haven't done anything really bad since," he said. "I haven't done drugs or anything. It makes it kind of hard to get a job. People look at me a little differently."

Georgie Cutright (right) gets one of his two Siberian Huskies out of his Chevy van on Wednesday, February 15. Cutright says he will attempt to be the first person to travel across the country "only on dog power."

(Photo: Travis Dorman)

Cutright worked "handyman jobs and different things along the way" to scrape together enough money to buy his 1989 Chevrolet Mark III van, his only significant financial asset, which he now plans to sell to buy necessities for his expedition: several pairs of boots to protect the huskies' feet; an iPhone and a GoPro to livestream the journey to prove it was done "only on dog power"; and a bus ticket, a bike and a cart for his friend, Sean Butler, who will travel from Philadelphia to make the journey alongside him.

Butler, a 29-year-old deejay, said he first met Cutright while working in game booths at the 2015 Texas State Fair in Dallas. They then went on the road together, traveling the country for a while before parting ways.

To Butler, the dog sled trip represents an opportunity to inspire people and create a legacy, "like something that we can say we did in our lives."

"I just want to see as much as I can in this world before I die," Butler said. "It's two men's stand of 'Can we do this?' And drop everything that we're doing in our lives to try to achieve something incredible."

Cutright has already secured his first sponsor: HeadQuarters skateboard shop on Cumberland Avenue. The owner, Nick Tomany, gave Cutright multiple sets of wheels and bearings for the journey, according to Tomany's longtime friend and HeadQuarters employee, Zachary Puca. Puca, who owns a nascent clothing line called Murderer's Row, gifted Cutright a shirt, which he wore Wednesday.

"I think it's a good idea," Puca said of Cutright's ambitious journey. "He's got nothing to lose. I think it's positive, and if he can do it, it will be pretty incredible."

The legal logistics

Interstate 40 is a straight shot to his destination, Cutright said, and he plans to stick closely to it but will be taking back roads and side roads. He said riding his dog sled on the back roads is "not illegal."

Several local authorities and law experts agreed that taking a dog sled or any non-motorized vehicle on the interstate is forbidden, but were uncertain whether such a vehicle may legally operate on smaller roads.

Tennessee Highway Patrol Lt. Bill Miller, when asked about the legality of dog sleds on smaller roads, referenced the state law on horse-drawn carriages and wouldn't explicitly say whether a dog sled would be permitted. He referred questions to the Knox County District's Attorney Office. A message left Thursday for spokesman Sean McDermott was not immediately returned.

Ben Barton, a law professor at the University of Tennessee who cautioned he is "not an expert in homemade dog sled law," said Cutright may be within the boundaries of the law as long as he stays on those small roads.

"Animal-drawn vehicles are allowed on small roads in this state and in every state in the country," Barton said. "As long as he's not being cruel to the animals and staying on the right type of road and obeying the safety

regulations, he should be fine."

However, Barton said, if Cutright travels at night, he will need to equip his sled with lights. Barton noted that even if Cutright is technically within the law, "the police in this country have great latitude to stop individuals who appear to be violating safety rules.

"Some combination of, 'It's not safe for him,' or 'It's not safe for the dogs,' would be the kind of thing a police officer might say. ... He seems super likely to run into some at least curious officers along the way."

Douglas Gordan, a lawyer who specializes in animal issues for the city of Knoxville, laughingly called the issue "a weird question," and said "this is not something I spend my time thinking about."

"We have a horse-drawn carriage ordinance and we have an ordinance prohibiting the driving of livestock," Gordan said. "This is really outside of what we're used to seeing.

"I'm sort of slightly in favor of saying, 'Sure!' As long as it's not a threat to navigation. Sure, it's slow, but if you don't have a minimum speed limit, then it's just annoying."

The travel plans

Cutright said he has a tent he can sleep in, and he'll stay in motels when he can. He also expects people will hear about his journey and offer to house him and meet the dogs. He said he'll rest whenever the dogs need a break and he won't travel on Saturdays - the Sabbath. Cutright is a non-denominational Christian who strictly follows the text of the Bible — "I know Him well," he said simply.

In addition to spreading a positive attitude and sharing his faith along the way, Cutright hopes to extol the virtues of rescue dogs such as Sarah and Lobos. Cutright got Sarah off Craigslist from a woman who was moving, and acquired Lobos from the police department in Venice Beach when the dog's homeless owner was arrested.

"The problem with rescue dogs is they don't get a fair chance," he said, as Lobos interrupted him with a mixture of a howl and bark, as if on cue.

"(Huskies are) very vocal and talkative, and they express their opinions through their voice, and the growls and the barking are just their ways of expressing themselves. Unfortunately, in the industry of trying to rescue dogs, a lot of people don't want that."

Cutright said he and Butler plan to embark for California by Wednesday or Thursday next week.

"I just want people to know that if you put your mind to something, you can do it. Anybody can, even a homeless guy."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Watch: Honey runs down the walls of bee-infested Texas home

USA Today Network Josh Hafner , USA TODAY

usatoday.com

Watch: Honey runs down the walls of bee-infested Texas home

Honey runs down the walls of a bee-infested home in Spring, Tex.(Photo: KIAH/YouTube)

636222407683809400-Screen-Shot-2017-02-09-at-11.38.27-AM.jpg

A request for a roofing job at a fixer-upper in Texas led a homeowner to a sticky discovery: Honey dripping down the walls in thin lines, forming sticky, syrupy puddles on the floor.

The cause: Bees, of course. About 50,000 of them, Latanja Levine told Texas' KIAH, swarming the spaces above the ceiling of her two-story home near Houston.

"It's coming in from the ceiling, down to the walls," Leveine said on KIAH's *NewsFix* last week. "I'm mopping it up, mopping in the walls. It's all over the curtains here— just honey. They're probably ruined."

"When I looked, it's going to other walls and coming through other places and you can see it's coming through cracks and crevices in the crown molding," she said.

See footage of her oozing walls below:

Levine had no idea the home had a bee problem until roofers notified her. Bumblebees became federally protected last year, however, meaning killing the buzzing horde wasn't an option. Professionals tried a non-lethal method.

"They smoked them out and put them directly into their colonies. There must've been 50,000 bees," Lee said, adding that "I asked them if they got the Queen bee, and they said, 'No.'"

Honey-soaked homes aren't unheard of: In Arizona, Scottsdale resident Kelsie Hughes tried to change the battery in her hallway smoke detector only to discover it honey covering its inside.

"Oh no," she told 3TV News last month, "because if it traveled this far, where did it come from and how many bees are up there?"

There, up her attic, she found gobs of honey running in long rows.

"There's got to be five to six pounds of honey in the ceiling," Hughes told the station. "That equates to about 60 to 70,000 bees. That's terrifying to even comprehend that many bees in your house."

Luckily for Hughes, she also found dozens of dead bees in the attic, a hint that the hive wasn't active. She still said it would cost perhaps thousands of dollars to repair the bee-induced mess.

About 110,000 bees infested the elderly care assessment unit of a Welsh hospital last August, the BBC reported. Patients at Cardiff's Rookwood Hospital watched the ward's walls dripping with honey, which staffers tried to mop up with towels.

Abigail Reade of the Tree Bee Society, a nonprofit that handles removal, told the BBC that a normal colony contains roughly 50,000 bees. The one in elderly care unit, however, had up to 70,000 bees and had grown over about five years, according to the BBC.

Follow Josh Hafner on Twitter: @joshhafner

Post by treebeesociety

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Women found smuggling horse GENITALS and meat concealed in juice cartons through airport claim it's for 'medicinal purposes'

thescottishsun.co.uk

CUSTOMS agents made a grisly find when they were conducting a routine agriculture inspection of some luggage – 13 pounds of horse gentials.

The meat and two veg had been hidden in juice boxes by two women, who claimed they needed the penises for medicinal purposes

Two women attempted to smuggle a load of horsemeat – including genitals into the US

7
Two women attempted to smuggle a load of horsemeat – including genitals into the US

They concealed the meat in juice cartons and claimed it was for medicinal puposes

7
They concealed the meat in juice cartons and claimed it was for medicinal puposes

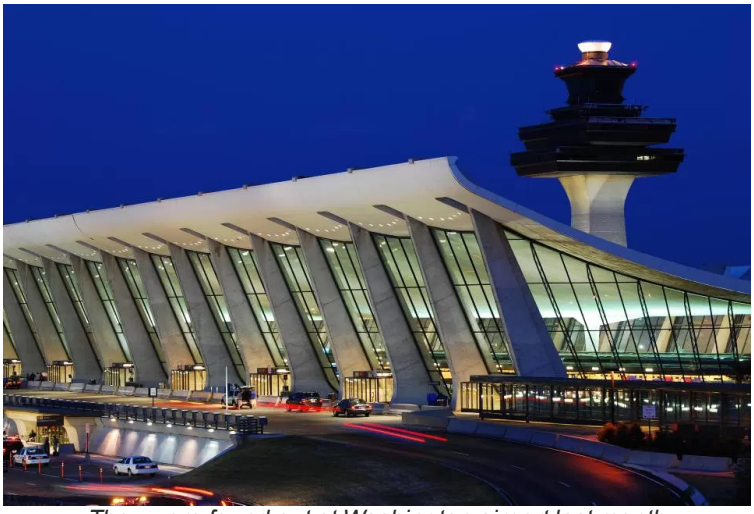
They also had an array of horse cuts in their bags which they were trying to get into the US at Washington Dulles International Airport after flying in from Mongolia.

The customs agents made their find at the end of last month.

Horse meat is prohibited from entering America, unless the traveler has an official government horse meat certification which they have to get from the country of origination.

7
They were found out at Washington airport last month

7
Horses are seen as having special properties in some countries
7
The meat was confiscated and incinerated



They were found out at Washington airport last month

Horses are seen as having special properties in some countries

The meat was confiscated and incinerated

There is a worry foot and mouth disease could be brought into the United States and introduced to livestock.

Wayne Biondi, CBP Port Director for the Area Port of Washington Dulles told abc2: “Customs and Border Protection takes no pleasure in seizing and destroying travelers’ food products.

“We’re in the business of protecting America’s agriculture industries, like the livestock industry, from the potential introduction of animal diseases posed by these unpermitted food products.”

7
A special permit is needed to bring it into the US

7
It is feared bringing in the meat could cause foot in mouth disease

The group inspects over one million people a day coming into the US.

The women had their horsemeat incinerated after it was confiscated.

Casey Owen Durst, CBP’s Field Operations Director in Baltimore, the agency’s operational commander in the mid-Atlantic region told the network: “Safeguarding America’s agriculture industries, and by extension our nation’s economy, remains an enforcement priority for Customs and Border Protection. It is a mission that we take very seriously.”

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun

A special permit is needed to bring it into the US

It is feared bringing in the meat could cause foot in mouth disease

website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Couple Has House-Trained Buffalo Named 'Wild Thing' as a Pet: 'He's Really a Gentleman'

yahoo.com

Johanna Li
Inside EditionFebruary 13, 2017

Inside Edition Meet Wild Thing, the 11-year-old pet buffalo that has its own room inside Ronnie and Sherron Bridges' Texas home.

"He's a house pet," Ronnie told InsideEdition.com. "Outside, he plays really rough but inside the house, he's really a gentleman."

Ronnie, 68, who calls himself the "Buffalo Whisperer" was forced to sell his herd of 52 buffalo in 2004 to pay for medical bills.

But the Bridges ended up keeping Wild Thing, who was just a 3-month-old calf at the time.

"It was kind of my idea to bring Wild Thing in the house," Sherron said. "We bring the dogs in the house, and [Ronnie] said, 'You don't understand – he's a buffalo, we might not have a house left.' [But] we brought him in the house, and ever since then, he's been in the house."

Ronnie explained their buffalo has his own room in the house, and a couple other rooms he is welcome to roam as long as they move the furniture. Wild Thing also loves watching television, and even though he can't turn it on himself or change the channels on his own, he prefers to watch cartoons.

"I think the news bores him," he joked.

Wild Thing is also potty trained, although Ronnie said he somehow learned to use the bathroom outside on his own.

"He never uses the bathroom in the house," he explained. "He walks right out, potties, [then] turns around and comes right back in the house. It amazes me because how would you potty train a buffalo?"

In addition, he said Wild Thing never breaks anything in the home even though he weighs 2,500 pounds, Caters News reported.

"It's like having a small car in the house. He's real careful about not knocking anything in the house, but he tears up my house on the outside," Ronnie laughed. "I think he knows the house is my territory, and outside is his territory."

Wild Thing was even the best man when Ronnie and Sherron renewed their vows. "We put the rings on his horn, but he threw em in the air," Ronnie said.

However, Ronnie said they're well aware of what a dangerous animal Wild Thing can be. He explained they also have wolves, bears, bobcats and tigers on their property but feels they are less dangerous than their buffalo. In fact, it was ten years before Wild Thing allowed Sherron to touch him.

“The biggest thing with animals is not being scared of ‘em, because if you’re scared of them, they feed off it,” he explained.

Even so, Sherron said their children and their grandchildren love coming up to visit the buffalo.

“Our son and our daughter, they both call Wild Thing their brother, they grew up together in the house,” Sherron said. “Our grandson, he’s 3, he absolutely loves Wild Thing. He calls him ‘Thing Thing,’ and he loves helping grandpa feed him. He just can’t touch him.”

Watch: Woman Wins the Right to Keep Pet Gator Named 'Rambo' That She Dresses Up in Outrageous Costumes

---

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

How a drunken prank on an ex-boyfriend spiralled way out of control

thelocal.de

The Local
3 February 2017
14:06 CET+01:00

At the end of a booze-fuelled night, two young women from Munich put a plan into motion to punish one their ex-boyfriends. But when he alerted the police, the prank spiraled way out of control.

Robyn G. and Sabrina S., both 22 years old, were the picture of innocence as they sat in the dock on Thursday, the Süddeutsche Zeitung reports.

But the two well-dressed young women with long blond hair were facing a very serious charge - faking a kidnapping and misleading the police.

Prosecutors described how the two friends had gone on a pub crawl in early 2016, after downing a bottle of wine at home.

That wasn't the only thing they were doing before they hit the town, though. They also took photos and shot a video which appeared to show Robyn G. tied up and being beaten by a captor.

At a bar later in the evening they bumped into Robyn G.'s ex-boyfriend, who told the court that the two of them had had a chat over a cigarette.

They talked about their relationship and the mistakes they had both made and "flirted a little perhaps, nothing more," he said.

Apparently she understood the chat as a form of conciliation, texting him "Don't do that kind of thing anymore", followed by several smiley faces.

But he didn't see it that way and ignored her.

It was at this point that the young woman had the *Schnapsidee* (literally schnapps idea, meaning foolish idea) to fake her own kidnapping, her lawyer conceded.

She sent her ex another text message, this time from a supposed kidnapper saying that "the horny bitch belongs to me now".

Then she sent the photo and video which she had filmed with her friend earlier.

The shocked ex-flame immediately called the cops.

An officer told the court how they arrived at the girl's apartment shortly after to the sound of loud screams. But inside they only found Sabrina S. and two drinking buddies they had gone home with.

Robyn G. had hidden further up the stairs inside the apartment building and had instructed her friends to let police know that they didn't know where she was. She also told them to mention that she had recently complained about being pestered by a stalker.

This was enough to put the cops on high alert. Sixteen officers were assigned to the case and the homicide unit was called into action.

Officers visited her mother's apartment, and tried to get in contact with her sister.

Meanwhile they tracked her mobile phone. The surprise result: her captor seemed to still have her hostage within her own apartment block.

The cops sped as quickly as they could back to Robyn G.'s home. This time the young woman was caught off guard. She didn't have time to flee out the door. Enacting a Plan B, she had her friends hide her under her bed.

But it was her long blond hair that gave her away, with a hawk-eyed officer noticing the tips of her hair coming out from under the bed.

"I can't explain myself why I did it - it was so stupid," Robyn G. told the court. "I am so sorry for the police. I was drunk and didn't think about the consequences."

The judge found the two young women guilty of faking a kidnapping.

Sabrina S. now faces a fine of €1,200, while the unemployed Robyn G. was handed a fine of €3,600.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

How a shared crate of beer ended in a bitter legal battle over an Audi

thelocal.de

The Local
10 February 2017
16:21 CET+01:00

A woman in North Rhine-Westphalia has taken her friend to court, demanding a share of a car he won from a bottle of beer.

For some people, friendship is far more important than money. But for others, like 19-year-old Vivian, friendship can be a way into money.

It's probably fair to say that most friends would be happy for you if you found out you'd won a car. But this wasn't the case for 24-year-old Frederik, who, having claimed his prize, found out that his friend was taking him to court.

In May 2015, five friends, including Vivian and Frederik, went on a weekend-long holiday to the Edersee. Like any good German trip, two crates of beer were brought along, which everyone paid for equally, according to Bild.

When Frederik opened one of his beers, he looked under the bottle cap and discovered that he was the winner of a competition run by the brewer, and had won an Audi A3. He collected the car from the company, assuming that was that.

However, to his surprise, his friend Vivian demanded from him one fifth of what he had won - in her eyes it was her rightful share of the prize.

Her lawyer Melanie Schulze, 33, thought that the prize shouldn't only belong to Frederik.

"The bottle-tops were the property of everybody. My client is entitled to a fifth of the value that the car was worth when it was claimed," Schulze argued.

Of course Frederik wasn't going to roll over. His lawyer hit back, saying: "At the end of the day it was a game among friends. The rules were also laid out by the brewery. Furthermore, everybody paid for the beers that they drank."

Even so, Frederik was very sorry about the whole situation, and regrets that they fell out over the car. He offered to pay Vivian €1,000 in compensation, but she wasn't having any of it.

The two appeared in court on Thursday, where the judge suggested a settlement for the case.

"This is an everyday situation that brings up complicated legal questions," the judge said. "Did the participants together make up some kind of company that should adhere to civil law? … After careful consideration, we don't think so."

She went on to say that "the plaintiff could however almost certainly be made a valid joint-owner", and suggested Vivian be paid €2,500 - one fifth of the price of the car when Frederik sold it.

Still, this didn't quite meet Vivian's demand. She is seeking a fifth of what the luxury car cost when it was new - an amount which would rise to €5,736.

Luckily for Frederik, he had driven the car 12,000 kilometres, decreasing the value before selling it.

"We are still all friends with each other; just Frederik isn't in the group anymore," Vivian told Bild.

She also declined to say whether other friends in the group wanted a share of the car's value.

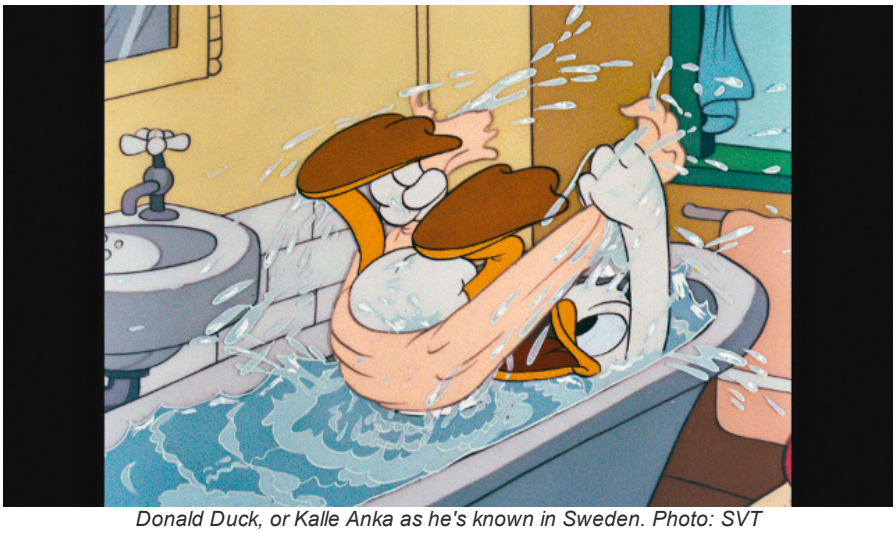
The judge is to give a final decision at the beginning of March.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

How Donald Duck makes Sweden safer for one hour at Christmas

thelocal.se

http://www.thelocal.se/20161221/how-donald-duck-stops-emergencies-in-sweden-for-one-hour-at-christmas



Donald Duck, or Kalle Anka as he's known in Sweden. Photo: SVT

The Local
21 December 2016
11:22 CET+01:00

Did you know that the number of calls to emergency services drops by around 20 percent between 3pm and 4pm on Christmas Eve every year as Swedes gather in front of their TV to watch Donald Duck?

True story. It was revealed by SOS Alarm, which operates Sweden's emergency telephone line 112 (the equivalent of for example 911 in the US or 999 in the UK) in the run-up to Christmas.

"The Donald Duck effect is well-known to our operators, who find that the whole of Sweden calms down for a while. Far fewer people are out and about or going somewhere by car. It puts a temporary dent in the number of accidents and means fewer people call 112 that particular hour," said Helena Söderblom, press officer at SOS Alarm, in a statement on Wednesday.

Last year the number of calls to the emergency number dropped by 16 percent between 3pm and 4pm compared to three hours before and after, according to SOS Alarm statistics. In 2013 the effect was even more noticeable, with a 26 percent drop in emergency calls registered.

Swedish Christmas celebrations are organized around the Donald Duck-centered Christmas special 'From All of Us to All of You', known in Swedish as 'Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul' ('Donald Duck and his friends wish you a Merry Christmas') and has been shown at 3pm on Christmas Eve every year since 1959. Don't even think about recording it to watch later.

A total of 3.439 million Swedes watched the show last year. The record in the past two decades was in 1997 with 4.32 million viewers. This in a country with a population just shy of ten million.

"The Donald Duck effect shows how much impact our actions and behaviour have on for example the number of accidents and violent crime in society," said Söderblom.

The decrease in 112 calls during 'Donald Duck hour'

2011: 20 percent

2012: 23 percent

2013: 26 percent

2014: 20 percent

2015: 16 percent

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

How the death of a Queen led to 68,000 people being fed - Medievalists.net

medievalists.net

January 10, 2016 by Medievalists.net

The death of a medieval queen was often an occasion for great sorrow throughout their own country – even more so when the lady was very popular among the people. Such was the case when Matilda, the wife of King Henry I, passed away in the year 1118. Over an eight-day period commemorations were held throughout England, with over 68,000 poor people being fed.

Matilda, the daughter of King Malcolm III of Scotland, was about 20 years old when she married Henry in the year 1100. While Henry spent much of his time in Normandy, often fighting with rebellious nobles or the French, the governing of England was left largely in Matilda's capable hands. She got the nickname "Good Queen Matilday" for her patronage over many building projects in England, including bridges, abbeys and leper hospitals. She also displayed care and attention for the poor and sick, while making sure her own court was the home of musicians and poets.

On May 1, 1118, Matilda died at Westminster Palace, perhaps due to unexpected illness. She was about 38 years old. Chroniclers of her time praised her behaviour and ability. The ***Warenne Chronicle***, also called the *Hyde Chronicle*, for example offers this glowing account of her piety:

For she, above all women, was filled with twofold love to such an extent that it was her entire intention to please God everywhere and to be a stumbling-block to no man. And so she rendered service to the Lord every day at the established hours, so devotedly, so joyously, that you would think that her chapel was not an assembly of court clerics, but a most fervent one of holy monks.

The author of this chronicle also goes on to note how churches throughout England helped to commemorate their queen. Organized by Roger, bishop of Salisbury, a series of masses, feasts and services were held in Matilda's honour:

although rightly no man can grasp the number of gifts performed for her, yet here is a brief summary of those collected within eight days: of masses, 47,000; of psalters, 9,000; of trentals, 80; and the poor who were sustained for a day, 67,820; those sustained for a year, 108, and those for life 128. It is related that at least as much was done for her in Normandy…

Matilda was buried at Westminster Abbey. On her tomb it was written:

Here lies the distinguished Queen Matilda the second,
who surpassed both young and old in her time.
Pattern of morals, life's adornment,
she was for all.

Filed Under: Features Tagged With: England, Queenship, Twelfth Century

Copyright © 2017 ·

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Hungover cat left a bit worse for wear after getting drunk on Christmas brandy

metro.co.uk

Harley Tamplin for Metro.co.ukSaturday 24 Dec 2016 6:10 pm

This is Monty. Don't be like Monty this Christmas (Picture: SWNS)

Sure, you're planning on sinking a shandy or seven over the next few days – but make sure you don't end up like Monty the cat.

An accidental session of binge drinking meant Monty learned the importance of having alcohol in moderation at Christmas the hard way.

The hungry pet devoured a fruit cake which had been soaked with a bottle of brandy.

Which, of course, spelt trouble.

When his owner Emma Faunch got back to her home in Hammersmith, west London, she realised Monty had been sick and the cake – which had been in a Christmas hamper – was half eaten.

Monty had a taste for fruit cake (Picture: SWNS)

She rushed Monty to Blue Cross animal hospital where the vet checked his kidneys and kept him in overnight on fluids.

Emma had received the hamper the day before and left it on the kitchen table while she went out.

She said: 'When I returned I found the hamper ripped open, a half-eaten Christmas cake and Monty drinking water and looking worse for wear. He looked very sorry for himself.

'The vet was a little concerned about Monty's kidneys at first so they kept him in overnight on a drip to help flush out toxins.

'Happily the next day they called to say he was ok and that his bloods and kidneys were fine and that I could bring him home.'

He'll think again before trying to scoff human food (Picture: SWNS)

He's now on a 'light diet' of plain chicken and white fish after paying the price for his greedy ways – which have led Emma to lock up cupboards so he can't get to the food.

Isobel McCarroll, Blue Cross vet, said: 'Monty overindulged after finding the tasty treat.

'It was an unfortunate accident and Emma did the right thing by bringing him in immediately to be checked over.

MetroUK @MetroUK

© 2016 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Meet The Man Who Gave Up Everything To Hunt The Loch Ness Monster

huffingtonpost.com

Meet The Man Who Gave Up Everything To Hunt The Loch Ness Monster

Steve Feltham has spent 25 years searching for Nessie.

Many people have made the journey to Loch Ness in Scotland in search of the mythical monster.

But one man made has made it his life's mission.

Great Big Story looks at the unusual tale of Steve Feltham, who has been searching for Nessie for 25 years.

He even lives right on the shores of the loch itself.

Loch Ness Monster
A view of the Loch Ness Monster, near Inverness, Scotland, on April 19, 1934. The photograph, one of two pictures known as the "surgeon's photographs," was allegedly taken by Col. Robert Kenneth Wilson, though it was later exposed as a hoax by one of the participants, Chris Spurling. On his deathbed, Spurling revealed that the pictures were staged by himself, Marmaduke and Ian Wetherell, and Wilson. References to a monster in Loch Ness date back to St. Columba's biography in 565 A.D. More than 1,000 people claim to have seen "Nessie," and the area is, consequently, a popular tourist attraction.

Keystone / Getty Images

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Siberian resort builds 'ice library of dreams' - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 7 February 2017

Image copyrightKomsomolskaya Pravda

The hopes and dreams of 1,000 people have been carved into massive blocks of ice for a new tourist attraction near the shore of Russia's Lake Baikal, in Siberia.

"Last year we announced we would create the Ice Library of Wonders, and asked people to send us their dreams and wishes," local tourism chief and ice librarian Maxim Khvostishkov told Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper. The first 1,000 suggestions have been etched onto the huge ice blocks, which have been arranged to form a translucent labyrinth that visitors can wander through and browse.

Ideas have poured in from all over Russia and beyond. Mr Khvostishkov listed a Chinese wish to climb Everest, a French entry hoping to fall in love and a Canadian dream of winning the lottery, but added that "most people wanted health for their family, to bear children, and a world without war".

The ice library covers 800 sq m (8,600 sq ft) at the Gora Sobolinaya, or Sable Mountain, skiing resort near the town of Baikalsk, and is part of a campaign to put the area on the international tourism map. Lake Baikal, the deepest in the world, has a unique eco-system and is a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Some local people came in person to see their hopes inscribed on the library's ice "pages" - one woman told the paper she was pleased that her wish to visit the Lord of the Rings film locations in New Zealand had made it.

It's not too late to send in a wish, as the local tourism association site is accepting submissions until the end of February. But the library will not last forever, as Komsomolskaya Pravda notes: "When the warm weather comes in April, the dreams of people from all over the world will melt away with the spring streams and flow into Lake Baikal."

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Identity of man found dead on Saddleworth Moor confirmed

Nazia Parveen North of England correspondent
Thursday 26 January 2017 First published on Thursday 26 January 2017

theguardian.com

Coroner says man found at Dovestone reservoir, Greater Manchester, in 2015 was 67-year-old David Lytton

Thirteen months after the discovery of a man's body on Saddleworth Moor and following a painstaking police investigation, the mystery surrounding his identity has been resolved.

A coroner confirmed on Thursday that the man found dead at Dovestone reservoir in Greater Manchester was David Lytton, 67.

In a short hearing at Heywood coroner's court, the Manchester North coroner, Simon Nelson, confirmed that officers had checked passenger records from a flight from Lahore in Pakistan, which tallied with Lytton's details.

On 10 December 2015, Lytton boarded a plane in Lahore and travelled almost 4,000 miles (6,440km) to London.

At about 2pm the following day, the "stranger" walked into the Clarence pub in Greenfield, Saddleworth. Tall, white, with receding grey hair, brown eyes and a prominent nose, he asked for directions to the "top of the mountain", the summit of the 1,500ft Indian's Head peak above Dovestone reservoir. He was wearing a light mac, normal trousers and a shirt, and slip-on shoes.

A day later, his body was found on a secluded moorland path. Toxicology tests last March confirmed that the pensioner died from a dose of strychnine, a highly toxic odourless alkaloid used as a pesticide, particularly to kill rodents.

He had no wallet, mobile phone or other identification and remained unidentified, despite numerous public appeals and the release of CCTV footage of his last known movements. The story was picked up as far away as Japan and the US. An Australian news website speculated that the man was an international spy.

Little is known about Lytton, who laid down fully clothed and was overcome by the elements on the remote hillside above the river Tame.

Only a few bare facts have come to light about the circumstances leading up to his death. Officers checked passenger records from dozens of flights from Lahore and found details that tallied with Lytton's. They also checked airport and train station CCTV to confirm his movements.

Following the then unknown man's death, a number of theories were explored and discounted, including speculation that he was a survivor from a plane crash in 1949 near Indian's Head, the

outcrop where he was discovered, which killed 24 people, and he may have made a pilgrimage to the site.

There was also another promising lead. A man from Northern Ireland, Sean Toner, contacted police. His father, Hugh, had gone missing from a Craigavon hospital in 1994 and not been seen since. In photos, he bore a resemblance to the man in the CCTV images. But when a DNA sample was taken from Toner, it proved not to be a match.

But there was one theory that DS John Coleman kept returning to: that the mystery man had links to Pakistan. Police had discovered that Lytton had a 10cm metal plate inserted into his left leg between 2001 and 2015, which indicated that the operation had taken place in Pakistan. A container of medicine found on his body was also linked to the country.

On the first anniversary of his death, police had a major breakthrough.

Speaking to the Guardian, Coleman said: “We started to concentrate on the Ealing area and looked at the train lines and where they travelled to.

“We already knew that this man had an operation in Pakistan in the last 10 years and we started looking into the theory that he could possibly have travelled alone from Pakistan to London Heathrow in the days leading up to his death.”

This began a process of trawling through hundreds of names of people who had boarded flights in the days leading up to 12 December 2015.

“The check of the flight names threw up a particular name. We then managed to get a passport for that gentlemen, and although the picture was old, it looked right,” he said.

Police then sourced CCTV footage from Lahore airport, which showed Lytton boarding a flight. Further CCTV footage showed him arriving at Heathrow airport. These were the crucial parts of the jigsaw.

“They were an extremely close resemblance to Neil Dovestones [a nickname for the man] and we actually got this imagery exactly a year later on the anniversary of his death. Then we were able to trace a relative who provided us with a DNA sample,” Coleman said.

This DNA sample from a white British relative led to a positive identification. Lytton from London had been living in Pakistan for 10 years before returning to the UK and heading to Saddleworth for reasons which still remain a mystery.

At the brief inquest in Rochdale, listed in the name of Neil Dovestones – a nickname reportedly given to him by mortuary workers at Royal Oldham hospital – Nelson said a full hearing would take place at Heywood coroner’s court on 14 March.

In January last year, pictures of Lytton were circulated to GPs nationwide, while detectives from Manchester travelled to London and visited hostels, hotels and pubs in their quest to uncover his identity.

Officers identified the smartly dressed man in CCTV footage from Ealing, west London, where he is believed to have started his journey on the morning of 11 December. He arrived in Manchester shortly after midday, having taken a train from London Euston, then went to Greenfield.

Despite being warned about treacherous weather conditions by the Clarence landlord, Mel Robinson, the man left the pub and was spotted by witnesses walking up the hill at about 4.30pm. His body was found the next morning by a passing cyclist on a boggy section of track at about 10.30am.

He was lying on his back, 700 metres down from Chew reservoir. He had walked a little over 4km, much of it uphill. His arms were at his sides, his feet facing downhill. He had £130 in £10 notes in his right trouser pocket. In his left coat pocket were three train tickets from the previous morning: a single from Ealing Broadway to London Euston and a return from Euston to Manchester Piccadilly.

Also in his coat pocket was a medicine box made of card. Inside was an empty container labelled thyroxine sodium, a drug produced by GlaxoSmithKline for the treatment of hypothyroidism. The label was printed in English and Urdu.

© 2017 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Inside the Forbidden City dailymail.co.uk

Inside the Forbidden City: Haunting images show rotting barracks town devoted to Soviet troops in East Germany left abandoned since end of Cold War

- **The East German military camp of Wünsdorf was once home to 75,000 Soviet men, women and children**
- **Soviet troops pulled out for the final time in 1994 after end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany**
- **The town was once a bustling community with schools, nurseries, shops, theatre and swimming pool**

By Thomas Burrows for MailOnline

These haunting images show the crumbling remains of the Red Army's last abandoned Cold War German base - where a statue of Vladimir Lenin still stands.

Headquarters to the Nazis and then the Soviets, the East German military camp of Wünsdorf was once home to 75,000 Soviet men, women and children.

Now 'Little Moscow' lies abandoned.

Vladimir Lenin stands overlooking a vista in front of the officers' building at the former Soviet military base in Wünsdorf

A swimming pool stands empty and disused in the officers' building at the former Soviet military base

A map of the world in Russian hangs over a desk in the officers' building inside the abandoned Soviet camp of Wünsdorf

Wünsdorf was the largest base for Soviet troops in communist East Germany until the last Soviet troops pulled out for the final time in August 1994 following the end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany.

- A spy's eye view of Russia: Never-seen-before pictures of... Graffiti, smashed computers and a cheque for £58,000:... Snapshot of a lost era: Earliest pictures by legendary...

The town, located about 25 miles from Berlin, was once a bustling community with schools, nurseries, shops, theatre and Olympic-standard swimming pool.

There were even daily trains that ran from Wünsdorf to Moscow.

The statue of Lenin stands in front of the officers' building at the former Soviet garrison town

Cavalrymen on horseback fly under a Soviet flag on a mural in the officers' building at the former Soviet military base

Today, Wünsdorf has been left under the watchful eye of Juergen Naumann, the last caretaker of the Red Army's former headquarters.

He takes care of an area around 200 hectares and he is responsible for checking on damage to the neglected buildings caused by heavy rain, arranging repairs and keeping an eye out for intruders.

He said: 'It's such a shame this place was never used after the change [when it was handed back to the federal government].

'So much could have been done with what was left behind. The authorities offered to let schoolchildren use the Olympic-standard swimming pool, but they didn't want to. The sports field was offered to another community who said no.

'And so it was left to rot. Buildings that are as solid now as when they were built in the time of the Kaiser are still structurally sound. They can still be renovated. But until there is more infrastructure around here, what will they do with them?'

Paint peels from walls in a hallway and staircase in the officers' building in the Forbidden City

Curtains hang over the stage in the theatre and cinema that has been abandoned since the last troops left in 1994

In this aerial view the officers' building and an auditorium stand at the former Soviet military base

He said he was most disappointed by the decline of the swimming pool with its original ceramic tiles and murals dating back to 1890.

'It was in pristine condition with the heaters working when they left,' he recalled.

'The last commander swam the last length in it before they all left. And look at it now. What a shame. What a waste.'

He added: 'Do I miss the old days? I miss the feeling of togetherness, the security, the fact that no one had to worry about health or pensions or sending their kids to school alone. But it was a system that ultimately couldn't last.'

Shower heads stand in the washroom next to the swimming pool that now lies abandoned

A text in Russian from Alexander Pushkin's poem 'To Chadaev' reads: 'My friend, to our land we dedicate the soul's exquisite raptures!' on a mural seen through a doorway

Prior to becoming a Soviet garrison town, Wünsdorf acted as the headquarters for the German Armed Forces.

The Nazis' World War Two campaign was guided from the Zeppelin underground communications bunker at Wünsdorf, providing direct contact through telex to the fronts at Stalingrad, France, Holland and Africa, The Guardian reported.

Now the Forbidden City attracts only photographers or video artists. Ex-soldiers and guests also make trips to visit their former home.

Wünsdorf went on sale for £3million in 2015 with the hope of restoring it to its former glory and the government's regional development company is still looking for suitable investors.

Soviet troops are visible on an ageing Russian calendar on a wall in the officers' building

A mosaic shows a young man and woman in what become known as Die Verbotene Stadt – the Forbidden City

Graffiti covers the entrance to the main theatre and cinema in what was the biggest Soviet military camp outside the USSR

Soviet-made electronic equipment stands in a small room in the officers' building in the former Red Army headquarters

The comments below have not been moderated.

zipdip, Harwich, United Kingdom, 1 hour ago

Well a ready made place for all these immigrants Germany has allowed into their country.

mike young, kendal, United Kingdom, 3 hours ago

Would be useful to house Merkel's guests

Catwurzle, Kernow, United Kingdom, 5 hours ago

Looks ideal for the LiebaLibVegSNP lot to relocate to post Brexit. Comrade Corbyn will feel at home with a statue of Lenin to admire.

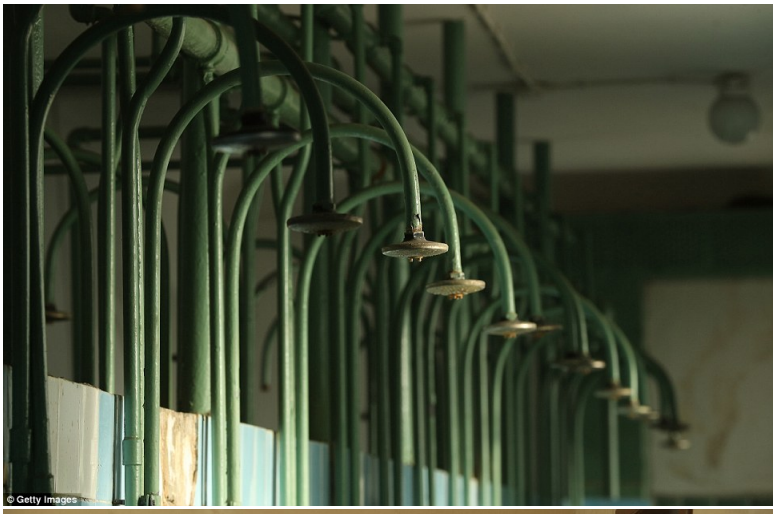
ZeZe, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 3 hours ago

Just troll off

Doing it tuff, Brisbane, Australia, 5 hours ago

If that was in Australia it would have been vandalised beyond recognition.

Dazeddazza, medan, Indonesia, 5 hours ago



Still has electricity, someone is paying the bills!

Ralpha1961, Atlanta, 6 hours ago

Let Trump buy it. He'll restore it as a fabulous palace.

fleabittenrangebum, Vista Blanco, United States, 2 hours ago

How about the Beckhams?

mizmoore, Eustis, United States, 7 hours ago

Too bad that they can't rehab some of it to house people.

The Awkward Squad, Worst Rated Section, United Kingdom, 7 hours ago

Interesting that it doesn't seem particularly vandalised. Contrast that with the coal mine featured in Scotland recently, completely wrecked by yobs. Anything left unattended in the UK gets smashed up.

Beach Baby, Oregon Coast, United States, 5 hours ago

A caretaker lives there, without him it probably would have been vandalised.

freddyfrog, lilypad, Australia, 7 hours ago

Forbidden City is in China DM

du Vallon, Midwest, United States, 8 hours ago

They go on and on about the quality of the "Olympic standard swim pool". I've been on swim teams since I've been 7 years old and 30 odd years later, I still swim for US Masters. There's no such thing as a 4 lane "Olympic standard" pool. Minimu is 6 and many have 8 lanes. The pool looks serviceable for a practice facility, but even at that it has no guttering or slopes to reduce wakes and most competition pools now a days do not have a variable depth either as that increases sloshing at the shallow end. It's far from "Olympic standard".

mizmoore, Eustis, United States, 7 hours ago

Maybe 1930's Olympics...

Man from Mars, City, United States, 2 hours ago

Was that before or after you landed on the moon?

Rupert81, Bradford, United Kingdom, 8 hours ago

I must admit i still find the cold war era fascinating.

HRH, Los Angeles, 7 hours ago

Don't think you would if you knew how the people suffered.

One of us, Moscow, Russia, 9 hours ago

Zeusnavigator, not as often as s.odomy acts in American army

ZeusNavigator, at sea, United States, 9 hours ago

Wonder what kind of untold horrors and abuses went on within that little Soviet universe. Likely it was an Orwellian hellhole where betrayals were a weekly feature and Soviet military wives were preyed on constantly from above.

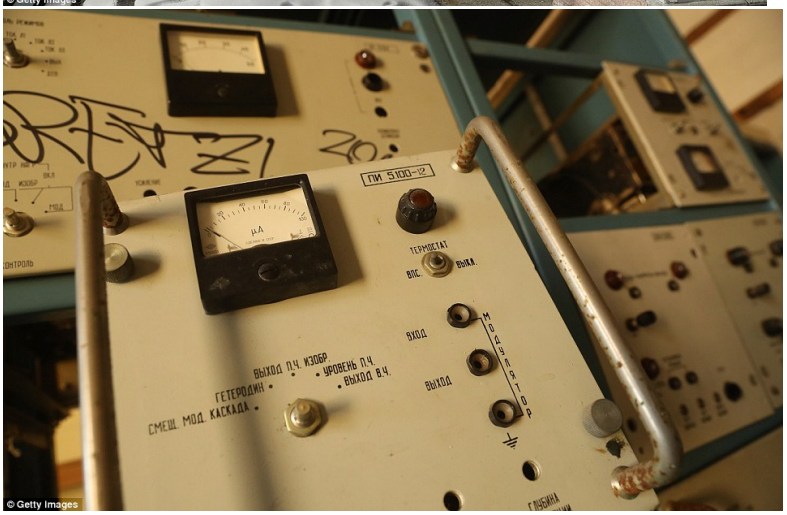
One of us, Moscow, Russia, 9 hours ago

The pull out was our mistake. Americans still have their bases in Germany and if Russia retained at least a division - we wouldn't have NATO approaching our borders

Rupert81, Bradford, United Kingdom, 8 hours ago

I agree.

snoopy1234, Downingtown, United States, 9 hours ago



Add your comment

Soviet-made electronic equipment looks ancient

Rupert81, Bradford, United Kingdom, 8 hours ago

It look like it was built to last.

JackyBassett, Geneva, Switzerland, 10 hours ago

Every copycat paranormal TV crew will be there tomorrow no doubt.

jpeasemold97, andover, United Kingdom, 11 hours ago

So Mutti Merkel can stay in the officers buildings with all her acolytes & all her party guests from the south can be housed in the vast barracks where they can really enjoy their stay in the EUSSR !!

Nixliberalis, Newtown, United States, 11 hours ago

A few words from Coleridge's Ozymandias, "Look upon my works ye mighty and despair !"and "beneath that grand, colossal wreck, the sands stretch far away."

miss bossy, eastbourne, United Kingdom, 8 hours ago

Think you"ll find it is "Look ON my works ye Mighty and despair" "upon" doesn"t scan right, just saying....(my favourite poem from senior school)....

FreeStater, Dublin, Ireland, 11 hours ago

History will repeat itself and that place will be used again!

TrolltimeMuncher, Rinkydinkystinky, Pitcairn, 12 hours ago

Frau Merkel maybe saving it for her "friends" to come back to!

Truedad, Stockport, United Kingdom, 12 hours ago

I suppose Valdimir spent many a happy hour in this place, pulling wings off flies.

Democracymustwin, York, United Kingdom, 12 hours ago

I suppose they could use it as the base for the new EU army they keep harping on about.

3
21

Christopher, Cary, United States, 12 hours ago

"The march of freedom and democracy . . . will leave Marxist Leninism on the ash heap of history." -- Ronald Reagan the Great

Steffie31, Lake Tear of the Clouds, United States, 13 hours ago

Why do graffiti "artists" think they have anything to contribute to the world?

Sceptic, Felixstowe, United Kingdom, 13 hours ago

Somewhere for Merkel to retire to. She can take some immigrants to keep her company.

MrPaulPoole, Hayden, United States, 13 hours ago

Renovate the place but first get rid of the statue of the murderer!

Nick, Taunton, 13 hours ago

You mean that Hero of the Democrats?!!

The_Mutts_Nuts, Dix Close, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

Put the 'refugees' in there, they can 'renovate' it and live there whilst earning their keep instead of holding their hands out.

ftk67, Las Cruces NM USA, 14 hours ago

Time to either redo it and put it to use or just bulldoze it.

reader, New York, United States, 14 hours ago

Turn it into a luxury hotel

Truedad, Stockport, United Kingdom, 14 hours ago

Memo to Trump!!!

Bert simpkins, London, United Kingdom, 14 hours ago

The main entrance looked typically gloomy and a blight in the forest it was nestled in. There was also a Soviet tank on the side of the main road from Zossen to Baruth for years after they pulled out.

Sean, Illinois, 14 hours ago

Germany has chosen not to tear it down just in case they start yet another world war.

TyrantGeorge, Utopia, United States, 14 hours ago

They should use that statue of lenin for target practice.

English Pensioner, London, 14 hours ago

Sounds just like the thing for Syrian refugees.

Carolyn, San Francisco, 14 hours ago

Only 25 miles from Berlin? This is prime real estate and should be taken advantage of. Turn that beautiful building into a spa or hotel and you're in business.

Joe Hardy, Jalon Spain, 14 hours ago

I have seen a couple of other abandoned bases in Southern Hungary very similar to these.

Brian, Silverdale WA, 14 hours ago

They should ban wide tip Sharpie's and other markers in Europe. Those folks mark up everything, including the most beautiful historic buildings.

mdos, Washington D.C., United States, 14 hours ago

"Wide tip markers"...what?? What are you talking about? Spray paint maybe?

Brian, Silverdale WA, 13 hours ago

mdos...go on a trip through Europe. You'll understand.

Susan11111, Las Cruces New Mexico, United States, 15 hours ago

Great place to start a nice refugee colony.. they can run it like their old home towns. Start businesses - make IEDs to sell world wide - probably lots of farming room where they had military maneuvers.

tallbear, Denia, Spain, 15 hours ago

A great place to send the migrants before processing.

Darrell, Chicago_USA, 15 hours ago

And Merkel when she loses.

auxpowerunit, Tampa FL, United States, 15 hours ago

Ronald Reagan: "Mr.Gorbachev, tear down this [Berlin] wall !" Donald Trump: "I will build a great [Mexican border] wall. So, who is better ?

MADPOM01, WAKEFIELD, United Kingdom, 14 hours ago

Trump

TyrantGeorge, Utopia, United States, 14 hours ago

One was to keep people in, the other wall is to keep people OUT. See the difference? No, too bad, we don't care, because you lost, we won. Time for YOU to do it OUR way now.

DarkSideOfTheMoon, Pennsylvania, United States, 15 hours ago

Those shower heads are awfully close together. Awkward...

tallbear, Denia, Spain, 15 hours ago

Depends :-)

TyrantGeorge, Utopia, United States, 14 hours ago

And there's a LOT of plumbing, way too much. Need a simpler design.

Matt, Houston, 15 hours ago

Honestly it looks like a nice facility. No need to let it fall apart. A little touch ups and it could be a nice hotel or country retreat.

carrickman, carrickfergus, 15 hours ago

Why did people want to get out of east germany, they offered a low paid job, a flat. free health care, free education, and a yearly holiday better than the EU

2 of 5 repliesSee all replies

TyrantGeorge, Utopia, United States, 14 hours ago

Watch the movie "Lives of Others" and you'll see. A great movie, encapsulates the whole thing.

Femme, Cambridge, United States, 4 hours ago

Jan, nobody can imprison your thoughts without your consent.

Sorbee, Yorks, United Kingdom, 15 hours ago

How the blazes is that statue of that despot allowed to still stand in a democratic country? The occupying communists who oppressed the people with a murderous iron fist are long gone, restore the damage the communists did there back to its original splendour and if can make a wonderful resort

Kay, Wiltshire, United Kingdom, 15 hours ago

This place just gives me the creeps!

Mr.Roster, Las Vegas, United States, 15 hours ago

Merkel's new retirement home....

Bogdan Stashinskiy, Moscow, Russia, 15 hours ago

the Germans sell tours there for € 45.00 ((

YankMe, Massachusetts, United States, 16 hours ago

Should be turned into a University or Trades School. My old Kaserne in the former West Germany is now the High School (Aschaffenburg).

fritz0r, Chicken Shawarma, Togo, 16 hours ago

Or refugee camp

Stebates, Liverpool UK not EU, United Kingdom, 15 hours ago

My old camp in Hameln is now a housing estate

Water Glass, Base Cydonia, Canada, 16 hours ago

Soviets suffered a lot ever since WW2.

bankofdad, Ottawa, Canada, 16 hours ago

Little known fact. East Germany first held elections post WWII which failed to elect a communist majority. Russia ignored the results, and the communists took over anyway.....cheers

fritz0r, Chicken Shawarma, Togo, 16 hours ago

1951 eastern Germans revolted against the established communist regime, than the soviets came and shot it down. The "Wall" was built 10 years later.

AlexOTB, Cardiff, United Kingdom, 17 hours ago

They could sell the statue of Lenin to the Labour Party. I expect Corbyn would be proud to have it outside Labour HQ.

DB1, Nottingham ENGLAND, United Kingdom, 16 hours ago

The champagne socialists probably wouldn't like the idea Alex ;)

First Born, UK, United Kingdom, 17 hours ago

My mother was from East Germany. She had plenty of stories to tell me regarding the 2nd World War. My father was a British soldier in the 2nd World War and he met my mother in Germany. They fell in love and, after the War, he brought my mum back to live in England. Most British soldiers brought back German helmets as souvenirs, not so my dad - he brought back a German woman whom he married. Their marriage lasted 63 years so it was obviously a match made in heaven.

2 of 3 repliesSee all replies

PurpleSquirrel, Hoboken, United States, 16 hours ago

I bet he got a lot of grief for that, but good for him. He stayed true for what he believed in.

simonsimon, Auckland, 16 hours ago

All perfect marriages are made in heaven, but so is thunder and lightning . I prefer not to risk it.

mickeysam, new york, 17 hours ago

How about refugees settling in this city. It looks like a pretty nice place and they could make it their own by upgrading the buildings, building small homes and bring outdoor markets for shopping to the refugees.

2 of 6 repliesSee all replies

memamadme, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, 14 hours ago

mickeysam yeah right or more like make it a no go zone where no body works.

The_Mutts_Nuts, Dix Close, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

Considering that the majority of these so-called 'refugees' are young, fit, healthy males, it would be the perfect place to house them. Reproduction wouldn't be a problem and they could have their own commune surrounded by walls and guarded to contain them. Simply leave them to it, they will have to get their hands dirty and work to make it habitable, although it is probably in better condition than what they turn other places into. At least we would know where they are and what they are doing.

DeplorableLatina, Centreville, United States, 17 hours ago

Could be transformed into a beautiful university. Or maybe made into housing for Merkel's "refugees".

The-US-General, Boston, United States, 17 hours ago

reminds me of my last trip to north england

2 of 3 repliesSee all replies

PurpleSquirrel, Hoboken, United States, 16 hours ago

Reminds me of Detroit.

truthouts, liverpool, United Kingdom, 10 hours ago

Why are there so many Americans commenting on the Daily Mail website? Do they not have newspapers in their own country, do they not have pressing issues at home to concern themselves with?

over taxed british, hell, 17 hours ago

how these people get away with this it all staged books on a desk left open all these years and no dust on the pristine white pages but i hope he turned the lights off in the theater before he left

Dazza-expat-France, Arles, France, 17 hours ago

Even though i would like to post something it is getting pointless posting on this site because only one out of every seven postings get put up. Im not sure why you waste peoples time DM.

William, Texas, 16 hours ago

I see you noticed that too.

nikko, Sandanski, Bulgaria, 17 hours ago

I,ve just been talking to a friend of mine in Berlin about this article and she says its not forbidden to go there, its only forbidden to enter the buildings out of concern for peoples safety .The M on S just loves a good story I think.

TonyB, Berlin, 15 hours ago

I think it refers more to the time when the Russians were there.

TonyB, Berlin, 15 hours ago

I think it refers to the time when the Russians were there.

hapenny23, Rouen, 17 hours ago

Seems a shame, pity someone can't find a use for a place like that.

Barry G, Hau Hin, Thailand, 1 hour ago

Lot's of suggestion already with what to do with it., a lot of Merkels marauders could be sent there.

Pablo, East Los Angeles, 17 hours ago

Strategically and financially it was a bad move for Moscow to leave East Germany in 1990. Moscow was paid peanuts (some $25 billion) for a territory which was worth several trillions of dollars. East German territory without Russian military control became the spearhead for NATO expansion eastward and thus threaten Russia itself again in the future. Mikhail Gorbachev, the last president of the Soviet Union, was too trusting and rather spontaneous then to let East Germany go to the West Germans. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin would have not made such a colossal strategic miscalculation in light that it took 20 million Russian lives to conquer and occupy East Germany in 1945.

2 of 4 repliesSee all replies

Arbiter2020, Herndon, United States, 16 hours ago

It's not the Russians land to keep! It was occupied land for Cold War purposes! They were paid to help move out and sustain a peaceful transition. It serves no purpose to split brothers and sisters by a wall east and west! Germany is a beautiful country with beautiful people, and east Germany was a dump compared to the west. Now you have Merkel destroying the land once again. Pathetic woman.

HRH, Los Angeles, 7 hours ago

Seriously? Thank God they did. In fact, Germany paid them to go. Auf wiedersehen, they said and Danke schoen.

LICA98, Riihimäki, Finland, 18 hours ago

lol how come you wrote Wünsdorf and not Wunsdorf

SteveH, Zurich, 17 hours ago

Because Wünsdorf is correct. If you want to write the name without ü then it would be Wuensdorf. German place names tend to use the german alphaber.

LICA98, Riihimäki, Finland, 17 hours ago

yes I know why it should be Wünsdorf... but the DM usually never writes any diacritics on names

Rose_Garden, Cardiff Wales, United Kingdom, 18 hours ago

Should have left Merkel there too.

Clair Voyant, Ruislip Manor Middx UK, United Kingdom, 17 hours ago

And somewhere to put all those Im migrants of hers.

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

In the Grand Scheme of Things

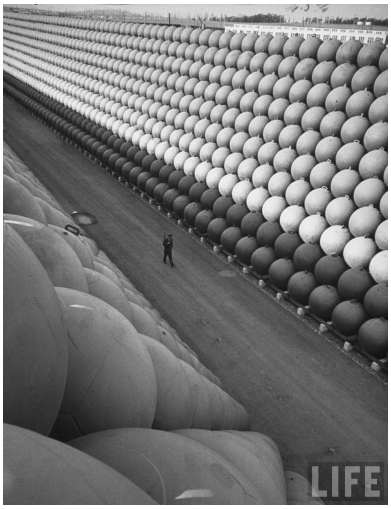
messynessychic.com

MESSY NESSY

CABINET OF CHIC CURIOSITIES

January 4, 2017

As you can imagine, I collect a lot of images from the internet. And sometimes, I need to unload them to clear some space on the old laptop. So this is me, doing that, in a meaningful way. I hope you'll the theme of today's spring clean larger than life…



loneperson

Above: A security guard walking down US Highway 101 where there are towering stacks of hollow iron floats from which the iron antisubmarine nets were suspended to protect the US ports during the last war. Photography by Hank Walker in 1953.

lumber

A Man Standing In The Lumberyard Of Seattle Cedar Lumber Manufacturing, 1939 (c) Alfred Eisenstaedt

Crib trestle bridge of the Columbia & Nehalem Valley Railroad at the McBride Creek, ca.1905 / source

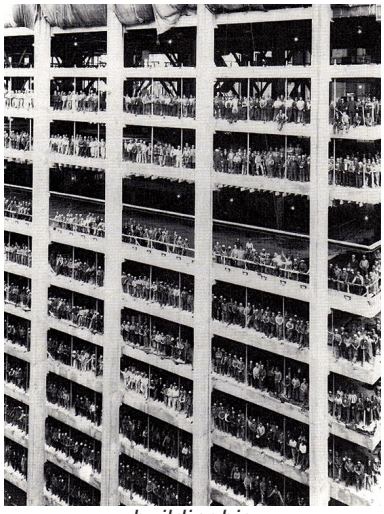
railroadcolumbia

Pacific Electric Railway cars piled atop one another at junkyard on Terminal Island, Calif., 1956. Read about the deliberate campaign to kill the electric-powered streetcars is known as the General Motors conspiracy **here**.

Workers pose during construction of 60-story tall Chase Manhattan Bank headquarters in NYC, 1959.

Large coat sale in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1936

streetcar



buildingbig

Opening ceremony of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games

The Palace of the Soviets that never was. Construction started in 1937, a huge basement for the palace was constructed before the

largecoatsale

olympicssoviet

moscow-palace-of-soviets-3

World War II. It was terminated by the German invasion in 1941. In 1990s, the foundation of the Palace was used for the re-construction of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior– via Russia Trek

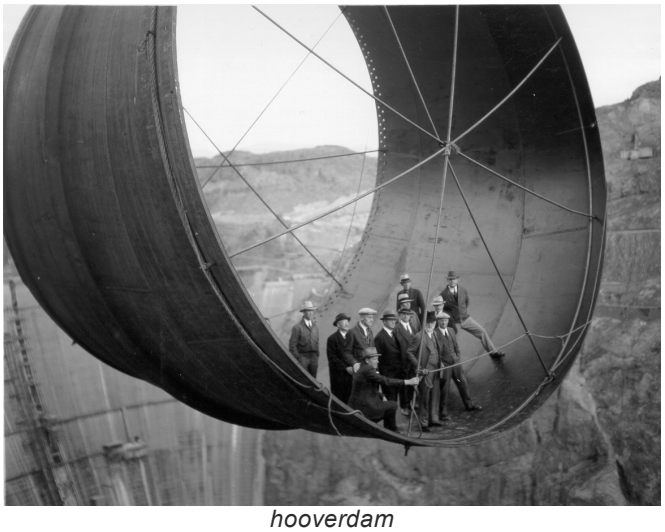
parismetro

The metro at Saint-Michel in Paris was built above ground first and then literally sunk below street level after the tunnels were dug out. More photos of the time they dug up Paris **here.**

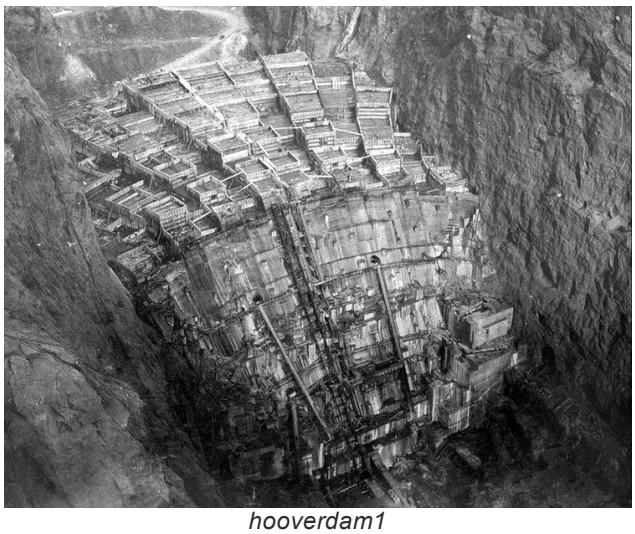
Hoover Dam turbine construction, 1933-1935 (c) Bureau of Reclamation

Construction of the Hoover Dam. February 1934 (c) Bureau of Reclamation

The thinker, Mulholland dam, c1930. Photo by Hiromu Kira



hooverdam

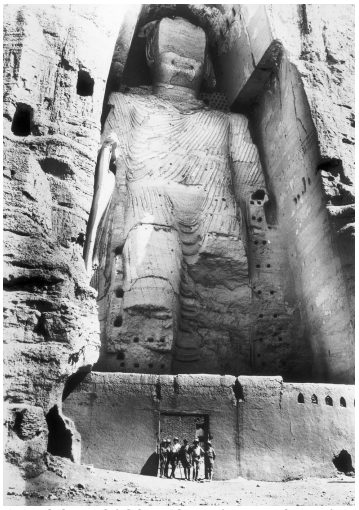


hooverdam1

The excavation crew in Pit X at Ur, Iraq, 1933 (c) British Museum

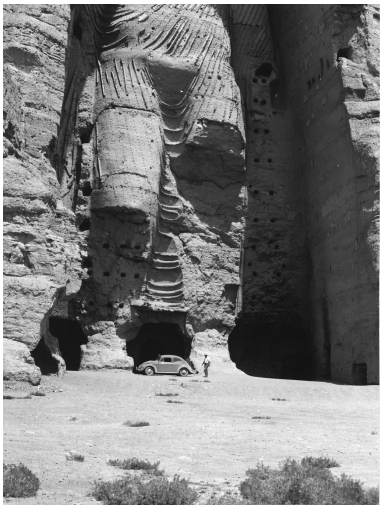
dam2

excavationpit



*tumblr_oj19jwc0ep1s7e5k5o1_*

French archeologist Joseph Hackin exploring The Buddhas of Bamiyan, Afghanistan, 1931.

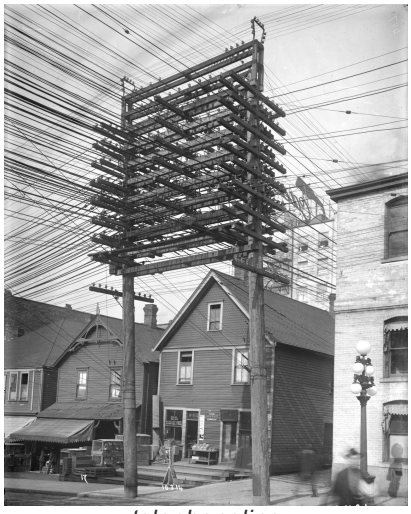


Tourist next to the Buddhas of Bamiyan in Afghanistan photo by Edmund Melzl in 1958

Early days of electricity, Pender Street 1914. City of Vancouver (c) City of Vancouver Archives

Weapons factory, Woolwich, London 1917

tumblr_oeyl5g8usv1s7e5k5o1_12

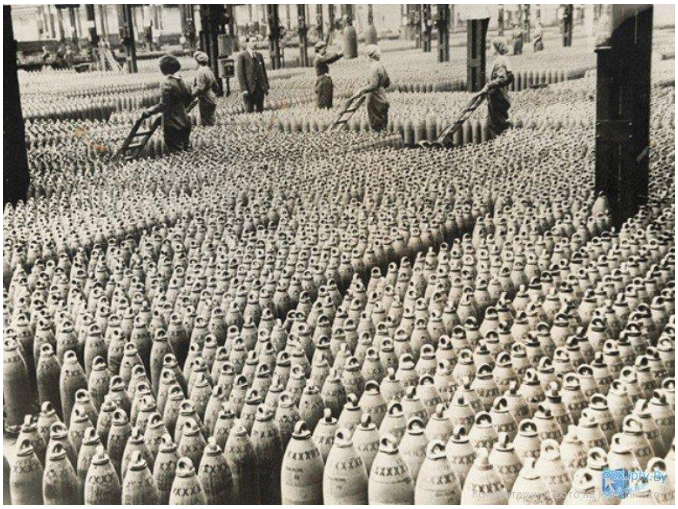


telephoneline

American soldiers returning after V-E Day to New York harbour on a crowded ship 1945. Official U.S. Navy from the New-York Historical Society

Bison skulls to be used for fertilizer, 1870

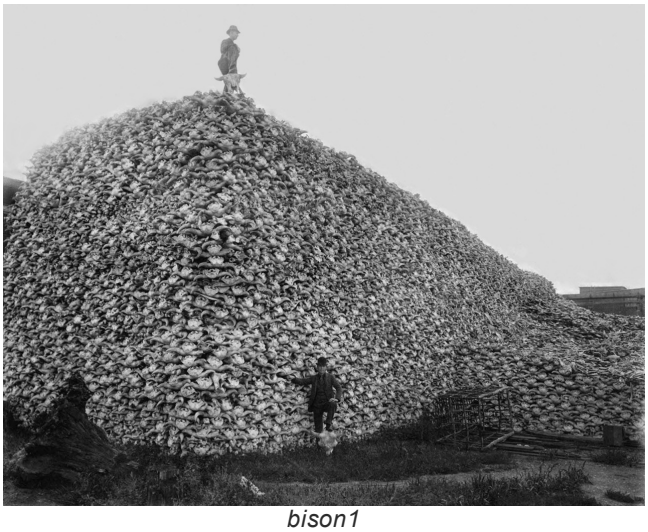
A stack of barrels ready to be set on fire during the prohibition era.



woolwoch

troops

People pose on the Fieldbrook stump, probably the largest redwood tree in the world, Humboldt County, California, 1890's. It was cut down to satisfy a drunken bet about making a table big enough to seat 40 guests from a single slice of tree-trunk.



bison1

prohib

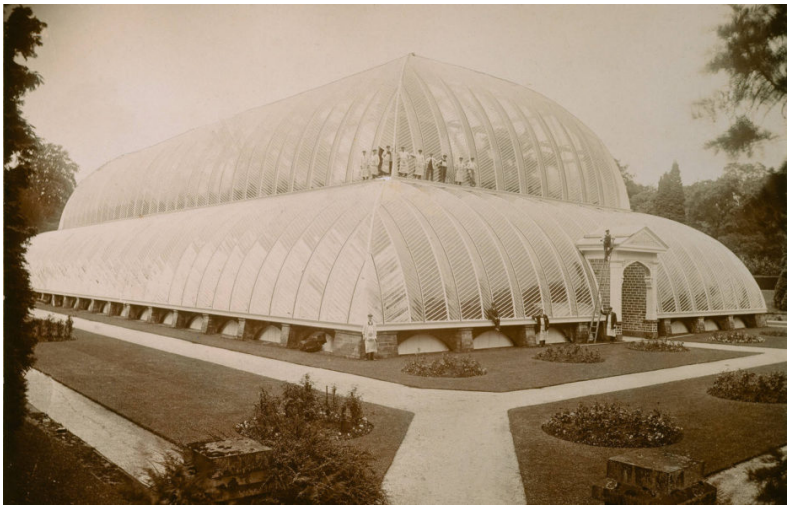
August 1907, Men stand on piles of cut trees in rural New York (c) US Govt Agriculture Forest Service

The Great Conservatory at Chatsworth House, England. Demolished after World War I when most of the plants had died due to neglect and the rationing of coal needed to heat it. (c) Chatsworth

Passengers boarding British airship R101, 1929. The R101 crashed in France on it's maiden overseas voyage, killing 48 of the 53 aboard. It is likely that this photo was taken as passengers were boarding for the doomed flight.

treestump

lumbers1

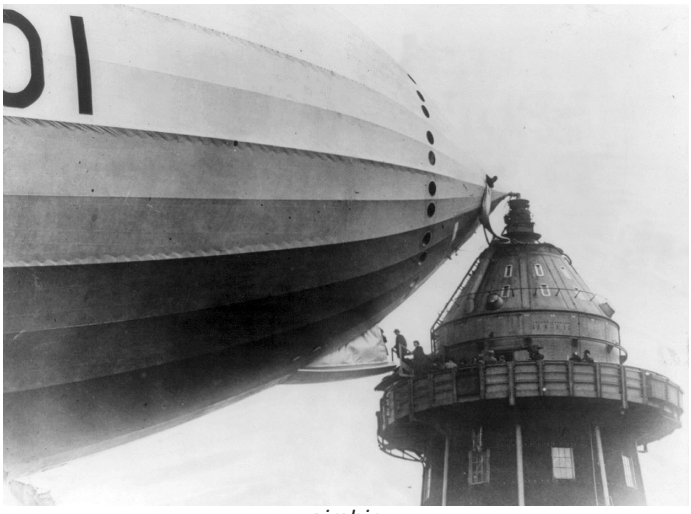


chatsworth1

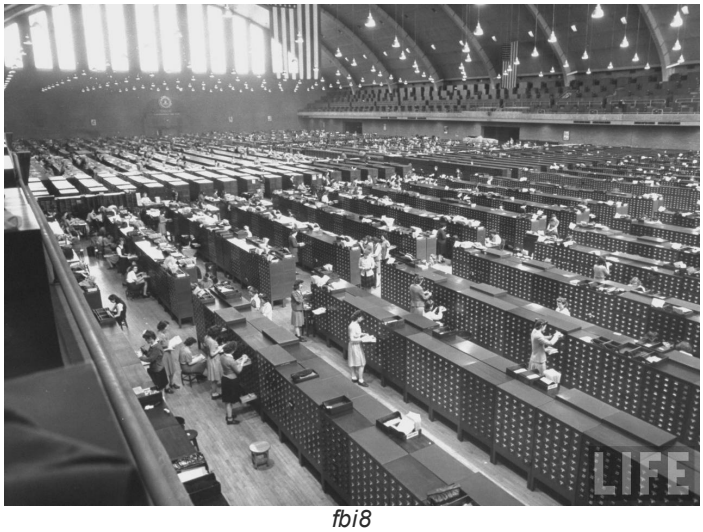
Take a tour inside the FBI's colossal fingerprint factory **here.**

The house that Donald Trump couldn't buy. circa 1991. The time Donald Trump's empire took on a stubborn widow and lost – source.

ABOUT NESSY
Mum & Dad named me Vanessa, but you can call me Nessy.



airship



fbi8

WE DELIVER !

WE DELIVER !

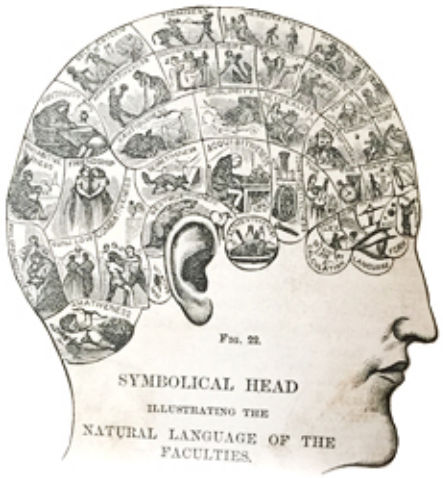
2016 - 13 THINGS LTD. All rights reserved.

trump

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

In the mid-twentieth century, Russian scientist Vladimir Demikhov created two-headed dogs

weirdhistorian.com



WEIRD HISTORIAN

If you were the child of Dr. Vladimir Demikhov, a Russian scientist who gained fame in the 1940s and ’50s, a two-headed dog could very well have eaten your homework.

Over the course of 20 years, the controversial Demikhov created at least 20 two-headed animals in his quest to perfect the art of transplantation. Although he sounds like a modern-day Dr. Frankenstein, Demikhov’s work was an attempt to understand how damaged organs can be replaced, or how to create artificial substitutes. His studies would eventually set the stage for similar organ transplants some forty years later.

Demikhov’s early work focused on replacing hearts in dogs with artificial blood pumps, but by 1946 he successfully transplanted a second natural heart in a dog. He simply removed part of a lung to clear some space for the extra ticker, which beat independently of the original heart. Some of the two-hearted dogs managed to live up to five months. The ever-curious surgeon carried on his work by experimenting with just how much work a single heart could do. So rather than add a second heart to a dog, he added a second front end of a pup. This would determine if one heart could pump enough blood for both heads.

Demikhov had a breakthrough with a German Shepherd called Pirat. Pirat lasted 30 days with the front end of a puppy attached to him. The puppy’s head was attached by joining major blood vessels. “The big dog doesn’t understand,” the scientist told a visiting reporter. “He feels some kind of inconvenience, but he doesn’t know what it is. Sometimes the puppy will playfully bite the ear of the big dog and Pirat will shake his head but he never has tried to scratch or kick off the extra head.”

An example of Dr. Demikhov’s experiments. His curious face is seen in the upper left corner.

Both heads slept and woke independently, which was a breakthrough for Demikhov because it proved that the head could be attached and retain some level of normalcy. Of course, “normalcy” is all relative. The puppy didn’t need to eat or drink, as it gained all its nourishment from Pirat. In fact, when it did drink, the water went down its throat and out onto the Shepherd’s neck.

After a month of astounding scientists and anyone else who happened to see the two-headed on its regular walks, Pirat developed edema, a condition in which lymphatic fluid infiltrates into connective tissue. Demikhov was forced to perform another surgery to amputate the puppy head. Pirat was returned to normal — or at least as normal as a dog could be after gaining and losing a head.

Weird Historian Copyright © 2017. © Copyright 2016 Weird Historian and Marc Hartzman

A Russian Two-Headed Dog

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Feedback Wednesday, Dec 28th 2016 4PM 60°F 7PM 53°F 5-Day Forecast

Daily Mail .com

Home | U.K. News Sports | U.S. Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Columnists

Latest Headlines News World News Arts Headlines Pictures Most read News Board Wires Login

A street gangster, an Irish bomb-maker and a corrupt US politician on the run: Incredible rogues' gallery of police mugshots taken 100 years ago

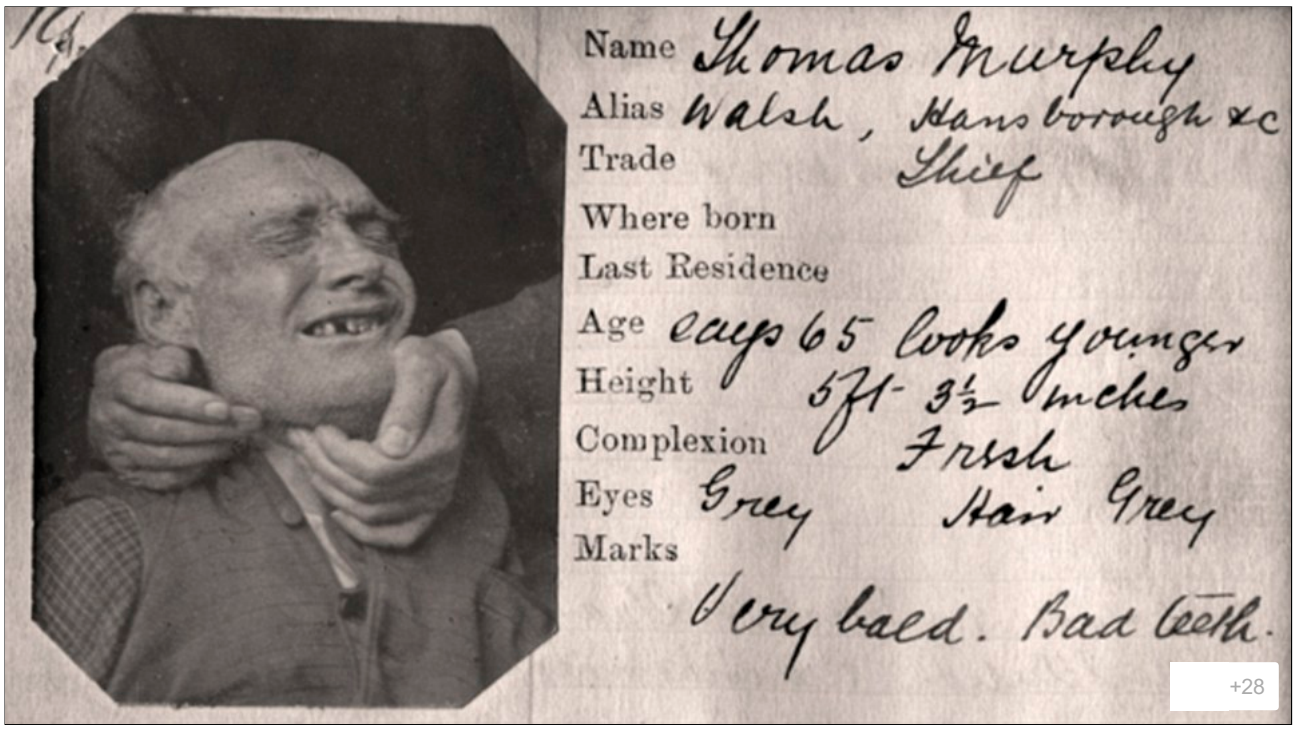
- **Photos were uncovered by Greater Manchester Police Archive and show criminals as far back as the 1870s**
- **Album features criminals guilty of crimes from petty theft to those with rewards of $10,000 for their arrest**
- **Collection is made of albums given to the museum after police stations had been shut down and cleared**
- **Many of the interesting photos are accompanied by notes on the criminals' appearance and personality**

By ALEX MATTHEWS FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 04:35 EST, 28 December 2016 | **UPDATED:** 09:42 EST, 28 December 2016

A rogues' gallery of police mugshots dating back over a century tells the compelling tales of crimes from years gone by.

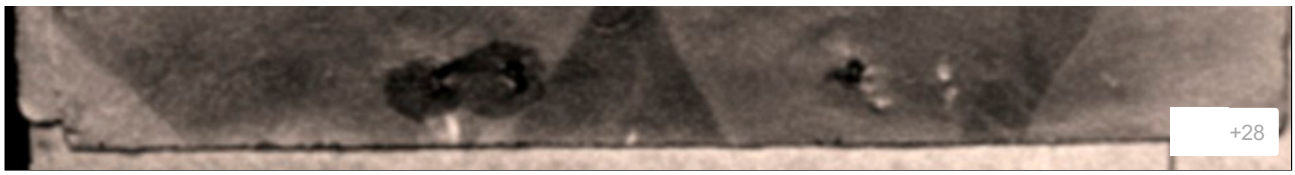
The incredible collection uncovered by historians at Greater Manchester Police Archive and Museum features 28 images from the 1870s to the breakout of the First World War.

Among the photos, which mainly feature criminals from the Greater Manchester area, there are petty thieves, a street gangster, an Irish republican bomb-maker and even a crooked US politician on the run.

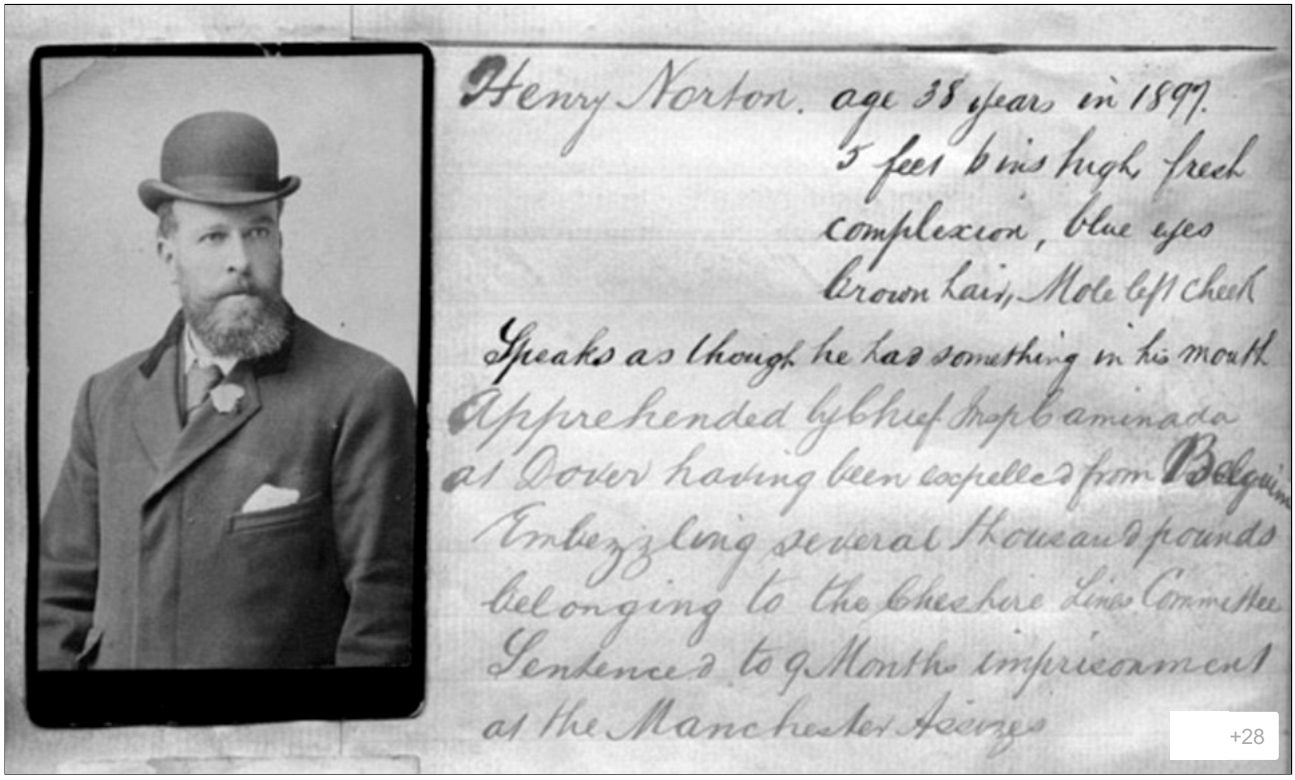


Thief Thomas Murphy was obviously not keen on having his photo taken and appears to be assisted by an officer in this police photo from the 1880s. Murphy was convicted of a variety of crimes - chiefly stealing purses – by courts in Yorkshire and Lancashire from the 1880s to 1890s. This photo is taken from an early Manchester City Police intelligence ledger. On these notes he is described as being 'very bald' and having 'bad teeth'

Clara Pendlebury was 32 years old when she was photographed for Bolton Borough Police's book of convicted criminals – known as the Thieves Book – in 1918. A native of Hindley, she is described as having dark brown hair, grey eyes and being of sallow complexion. Clara was employed as a card room hand in the cotton spinning industry and was convicted of stealing two and a half pounds of raw cotton. She was fined 40 shillings for the offence



James McGrath, a Scot of Irish parents, was part of the Fenian movement and was arrested in 1881 for a failed plot to plant a bomb in Liverpool Town Hall. The Fenian movement started in the late 1850s and consisted of Irish republican revolutionary groups that sought to rid Ireland of British rule and create an independent Irish state. McGrath, aged 32, was arrested soon after his bomb plot - which was said to have only caused minimal damage - and was sentenced to life imprisonment



Henry Norton, 38, was arrested for 'embezzling several thousand pounds' belonging to the Cheshire Lines Committee - a railway line. He was sentenced to nine months in prison in 1897. However, in this case the arresting officer may even prove to have a more interesting tale than the criminal in the photo. Manchester City Police dispatched their greatest detective, Jerome Caminada, to arrest Norton at Dover in Kent. According to the Greater Manchester Police Archive, Caminada was often described as Manchester's Sherlock Homes. His talent saw him rise up the ranks to detective superintendent - the first head of the Manchester Detective Division

Due to meticulous note taking by detectives after arrest, many of the pictures come with detailed summaries of a person's crime, physical appearance and even their personality traits.

In an age where most police records are kept digitally, it is miraculous that such a collection has stood the test of time.

Duncan Broady, 58, who has been the curator of the Greater Manchester Police Archive and Museum since it opened in 1981, believes that this is down to the intriguing tale of each criminal.

RELATED ARTICLES

The faces of 1930s crime in colour for the first time: Black...

From 'Fainting Bertha' the pickpocket to 'Red Nora' the...

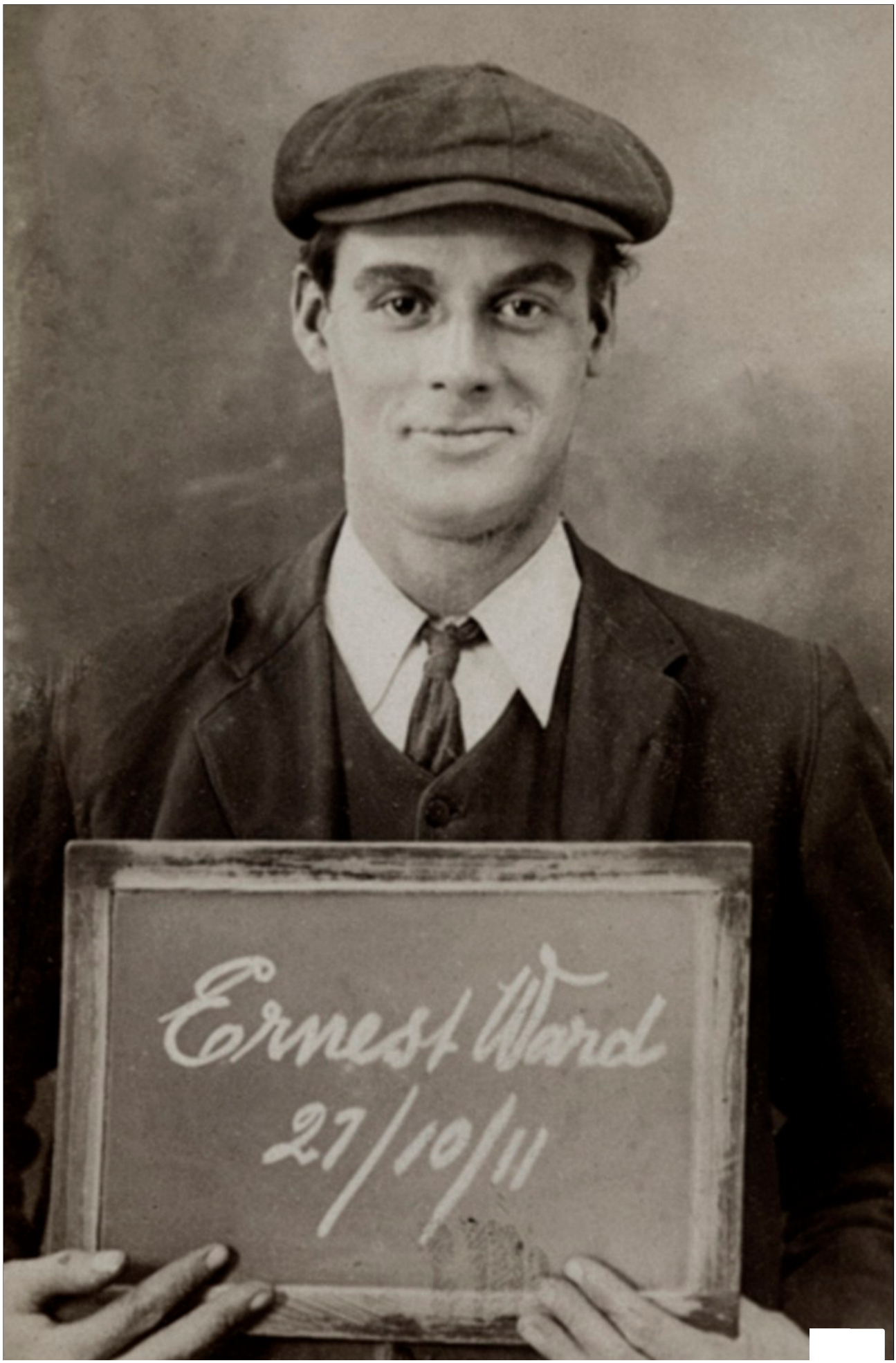
Faces of the Victorian underworld: They're the first...

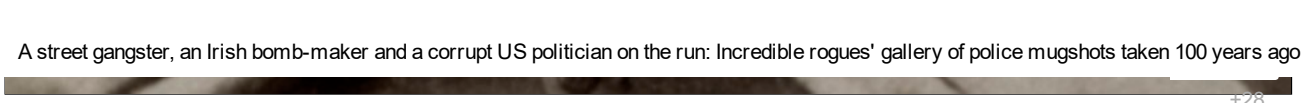
He said: 'We only have a tiny amount of photos that have survived but I think people have always been interested in them, so if they come across them they have kept them.

'We have collected the photos from different places, but mostly we've got them when police stations have closed down and staff have found them in their final clear out.'

The photos were stored in police intelligence ledgers after an arrest, so that they could be shared with officers from neighbouring stations or constabularies.

This fresh-faced crook went by the name of James Sutch and he was 19 years old when this picture was taken in 1920. He was arrested for stealing a bicycle and was fined £3.15s (£3 and fifteen shillings) at court in Bolton. In records researched by the museum it shows that in 1917 he had been bound over for twelve months for the same offence. In between, he had been fined 10/- (ten shillings) for the offence of gaming


Ernest Ward
27/10/11



This man, looking rather pleased with himself, is jewellery thief Ernest Ward. The 32-year-old pork butcher, from Stockport, had just been sentenced to six months with hard labour for theft, when this picture was taken in 1911. He had already come to the attention of the local police on many occasions, having five previous convictions for larceny and for assault

Mary Elizabeth Smith was just 19 years old when this photograph was taken, after her arrest in 1893. Her records show she had a long list of offences, including larceny, obtaining money under false pretences, and 'wearing apparel', which saw her in and out of custody in the early 1890s

William Gaskell (right) and the grumpy looking Richard Higham (left) both appeared in court in Bolton charged with stealing coal on February 26 1920. They were fined £20 each for their crime - a substantial sum at the time. Gaskell, 33, is recorded as being a collier. Higham, 40, had his profession is listed as a carter. Both men are said to have brown hair and brown eyes and are 5ft 9in and 5ft 5in respectively

Curiously, in some of the photos the criminals are seen to be holding up their hands. Mr Broady explained that this could be a technique used by officers to assist with identification in future cases.

In the 19th century, Manchester was one of Britain's industrial powerhouses and workers losing fingers or even limbs during accidents at factories would not have been uncommon.

A missing finger or hand would be an efficient way of identifying someone in a crime.

In other pictures the crooks are also shown to be sitting next to a mirror, this again would have helped with identification by offering another angle to a person's face.

Police were required to photograph criminals by the 1870s but finger printing was not introduced until 1901 so photographs and notes such as these would have been crucial in the investigation of crimes.

+28

Edith Towell was a domestic servant and petty thief. She first appeared in police records when she was convicted of stealing clothes on the September 28 1889. For this she was fined 40 shillings by a local magistrate, but was back in court in Liverpool only days later when sentenced to three months for stealing a gold watch and £4. 3shillings 4d. Edith next appears in records in 1895, when she was convicted of stealing £7 in cash and £40 in Co-operative store cheques. Records show that later that year she served prison sentences in both Coventry and Worcester before making her final appearance on police files after being sentenced at Salford Sessions to three months for stealing wearing apparel and a watch in 1897

Herbert Grosvenor was a thief from Salford. When this photograph was taken in June 1930, he had just been convicted of three cases of housebreaking and sent to prison. He had previously come to the attention of the court in 1926 when he was

fined 5/- (shillings) for not possessing a dog licence

Career thief Margaret Kerrigan, who also went by the alias Mary Ann Cowell, may look innocent - but she made regular appearances in Manchester City Police's records over the space of a decade. Mary first appeared in 1902 when she was sentenced to three months hard labour for the theft of a purse containing £7.10 shillings. A year later she was back before the court for the theft of 2/9. Despite the small amount stolen, she received the same sentence of three months hard labour. Mary then reappeared in records in 1908 when she was convicted of three offences of theft of clothing and was sentenced to three

months imprisonment for each offence. Her final appearance was on December 18 1911, where she was convicted of the theft of a dress and pairs of boys' 'knickers' and received her usual three months in jail

Eliza Wright was arrested for three counts of false pretences (using deception to get money or goods) on December 17 1909. She was convicted and sentenced to three months imprisonment for each charge, served concurrently.The 23-year old was said be 5ft tall and have brown hair, hazel eyes, and a fresh complexion. The records also show that she was married and lived in Stockport

One of the most interesting tales among the album of mugshots is that of James McGrath, who was arrested in 1881.

While there is nothing out of the ordinary about his photo, which shows a man with short hair, dressed in a smart jacket with a shirt and tie, his arrest notes paint a very different picture.

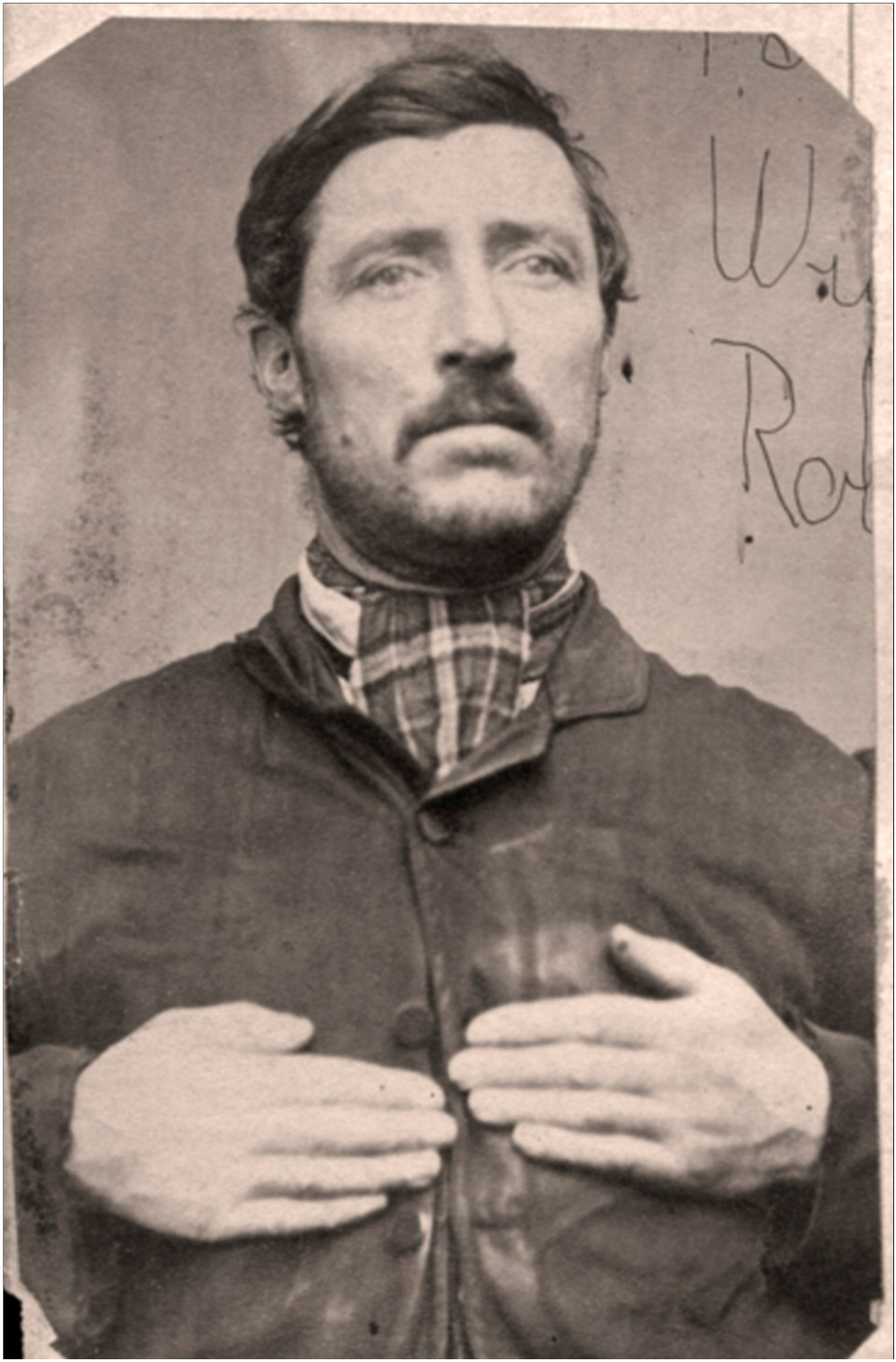
McGrath, a Scot of Irish parents, was part of the Fenian movement and was arrested for a failed plot to plant a bomb in Liverpool Town Hall.

The Fenian movement started in the late 1850s and consisted of Irish republican revolutionary groups that sought to rid Ireland of British rule and create an independent Irish state.

McGrath, aged 32, was arrested soon after his bomb plot - which was said to have only caused minimal damage - and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mary Bates, who also went by the aliases of Heywood, Birchall or Solway, was recorded in a Manchester City Police intelligence ledger as a 'notorious thief' who was well known to local officers. During her scams she would get a job as a domestic servant and then abscond with her employer's valuables at the first opportunity

This is one of the rare photos in the museum's collection that comes without detailed notes or description. But from the little the research team could find, John Richardson appears to be nothing more than a petty fare dodger. It is written in Manchester City Police's intelligence ledger that he 'caused a sensation' by posing as a railway engineer and traveling extensively on the London and North Western Railway's network. He is also said to be 'well known to Leeds Police' in the same report



Career thief William Roberts - who also went by the name of Brooks, Brown, Wild and Davies - served numerous prison sentences during his long but ultimately unsuccessful criminal career. Between 1856 and 1861 he served time for stealing a number of items including money, satin and a watch. He had various brushes with the law over the next decade until he was sentenced to seven years in jail in 1873 for the theft of another watch. On his release, he returned to his old habits and is last reported as being jailed for three months for theft in 1883

Richard Hurst
1/7/14

Due to the date of this photograph it is believed that 19-year-old Richard Hurst was trying to avoid military service. Records show Hurst was set to serve three months in prison for the offence of false pretences - or deception. The cinematograph operator from Salford was sentenced at court in Stockport on July 7. However, Hurst was no stranger to the offence, having been found guilty of the crime on three occasions over the previous thirteen months

His accomplice, James McKevitt received a 15-year sentence and served his time in Chatham Prison, Kent.

It is not known exactly why McGrath got a harsher sentence, but according to records on the Liverpool City Police website, it may have been because he was also jailed for another charge related to a bomb plot in London.

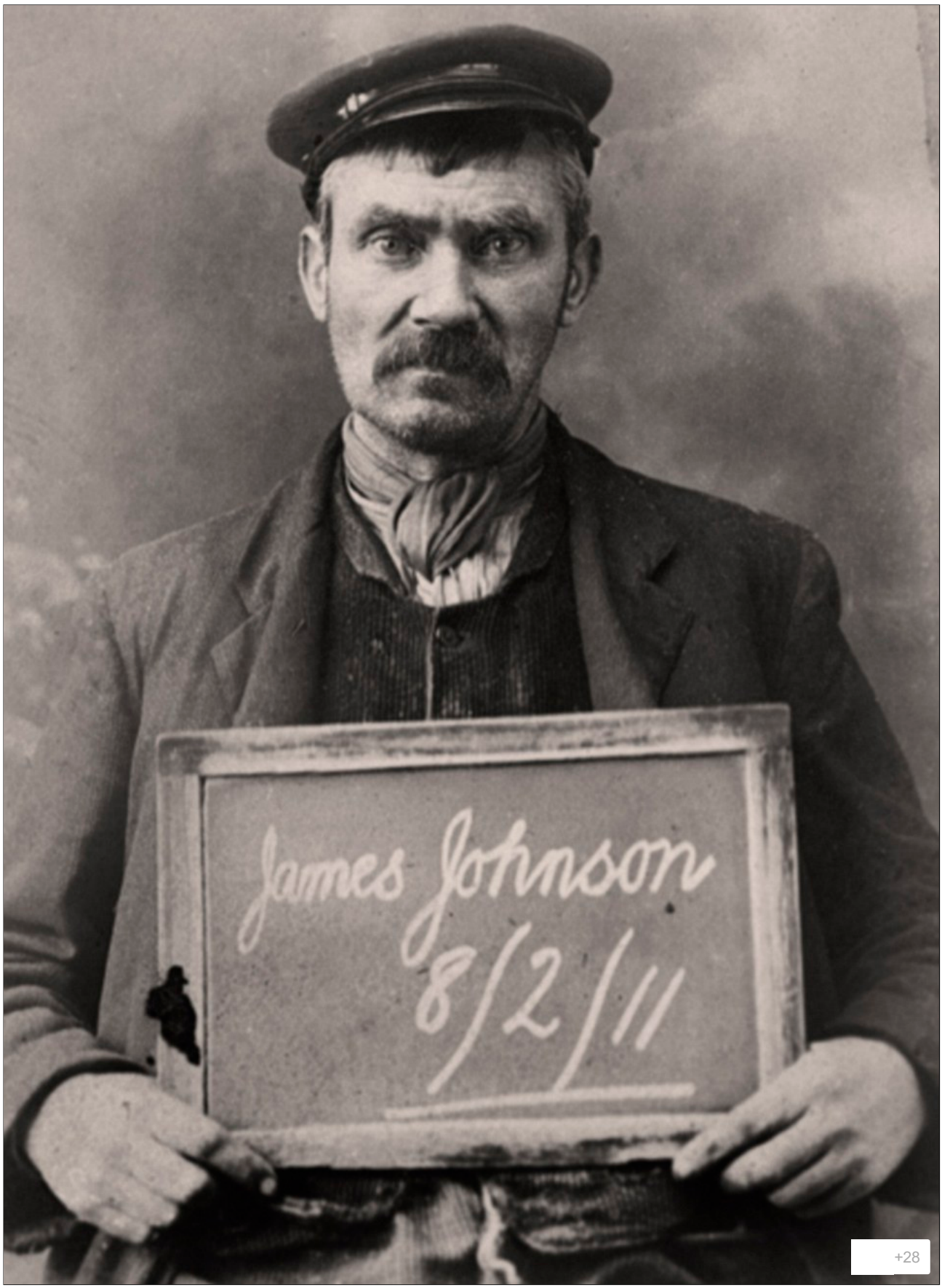
The records show that in May that year, McGrath was found to have used 'an explosion of gunpowder' and 'unlawfully and maliciously damaged the police section house in Hatton Garden'.

To many, terrorism taking place in Victorian England may seem shocking but Mr Broady said it was a threat police across the country had to be wary of.

He explained: 'At the time the Fenian movement was seeking separation from the UK for Ireland and they had set up various explosions around the country in the 19th century.

This young man, scowling into the camera lense, is 20-year-old William Brookes and he was arrested in 1890. Although it is not clear why he was taken into custody. Brookes was part of a gang called The Scuttlers who menaced the streets of Manchester and Salford towards the end of the nineteenth century. They were said to have a specific way of dressing, often wearing brass tipped clogs, distinctive scarves and bell bottomed trousers. The Scuttlers, made up of both young men and women, also carried weapons including belts, knives and guns. Large-scale street battles or 'scuttles' took place among the groups and sometimes the numbers involved even swelled to hundreds

It appears that this man, William Lewis, was well known to Manchester City Police officers in the early 1900s. The museum research team found a note alongside the photo, found in the police's intelligence ledger, stating that he is 'an excellent office breaker and a clever house breaker'



James Johnson had been arrested for theft when this picture was taken on February 11, 1911. Johnson, a 50-year-old labourer, was charged with three offences of stealing stockings. Records show he was sentenced to a total of three months with hard labour later that same month

The theft of cheese and ham doesn't sound like a crime that could put you behind bars, but in 1909 it was enough to see Alfred Pilling serve a custodial sentence. Pilling, from Manchester, was convicted of stealing 20 lbs of ham in May 1909 and later appeared in the police records for the theft of 56 lbs of cheese. However, later that year his crimes took a more serious turn when he was sentenced to six months in jail for stealing a gun. The mustached-crook with a penchant for bowler hats then disappeared from the records until 1912 when he was sentenced to six months for the theft of four dead rabbits. He was later convicted of housebreaking and larceny, alongside preparation of a criminal act. His criminal career spanned from 1909 to 1931, during which he was sentenced to 14 terms of imprisonment, serving over eight years behind bars

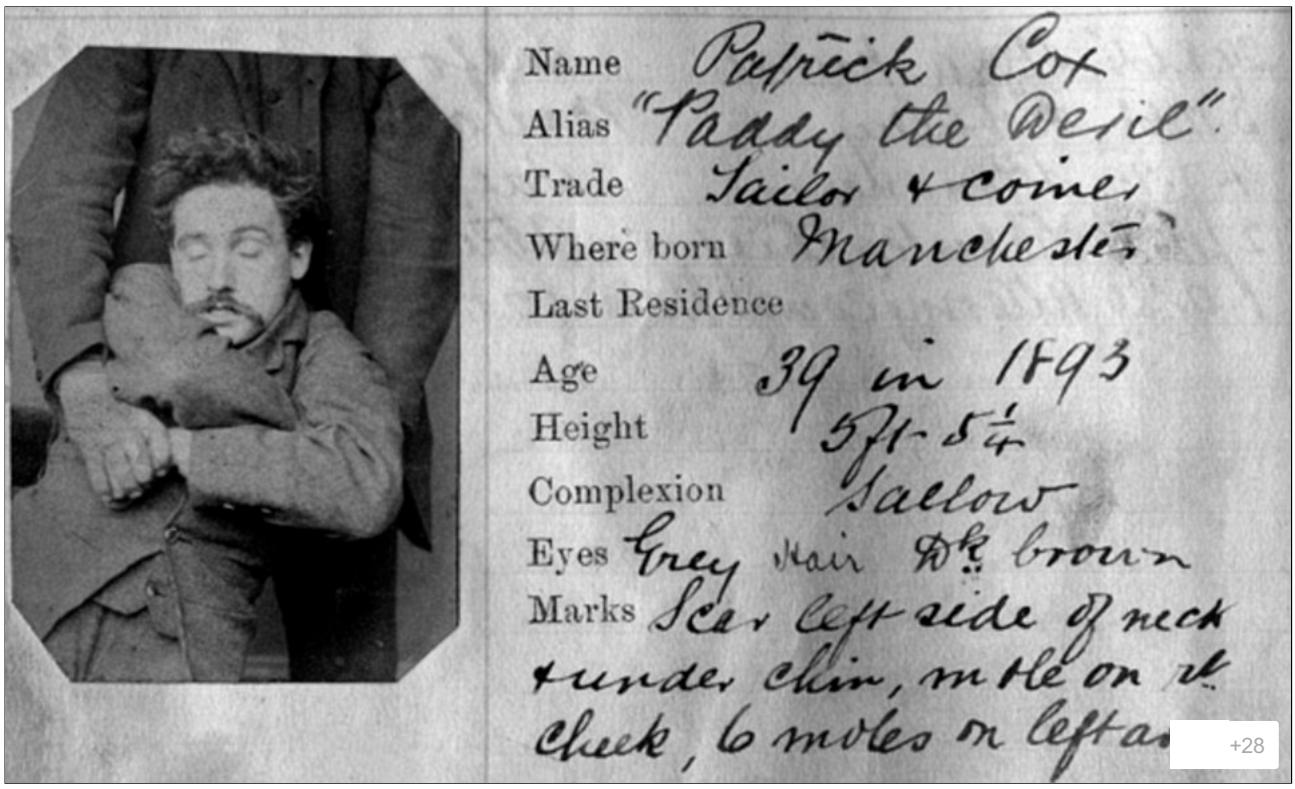
'The police would have been dealing with that threat from the 1860-90s.'

As well as homegrown crooks, the album also contains a criminal from across the Atlantic. However, unlike the others in the collection, this man hadn't been arrested - he was a fugitive.

William M 'Boss' Tweed had escaped from custody in the 1870s, but he was no ordinary criminal on the run from the law, he was something of a celebrity.

Tweed was a prominent Republican politician in the state and city of New York and a former member of the United States House of Representatives.

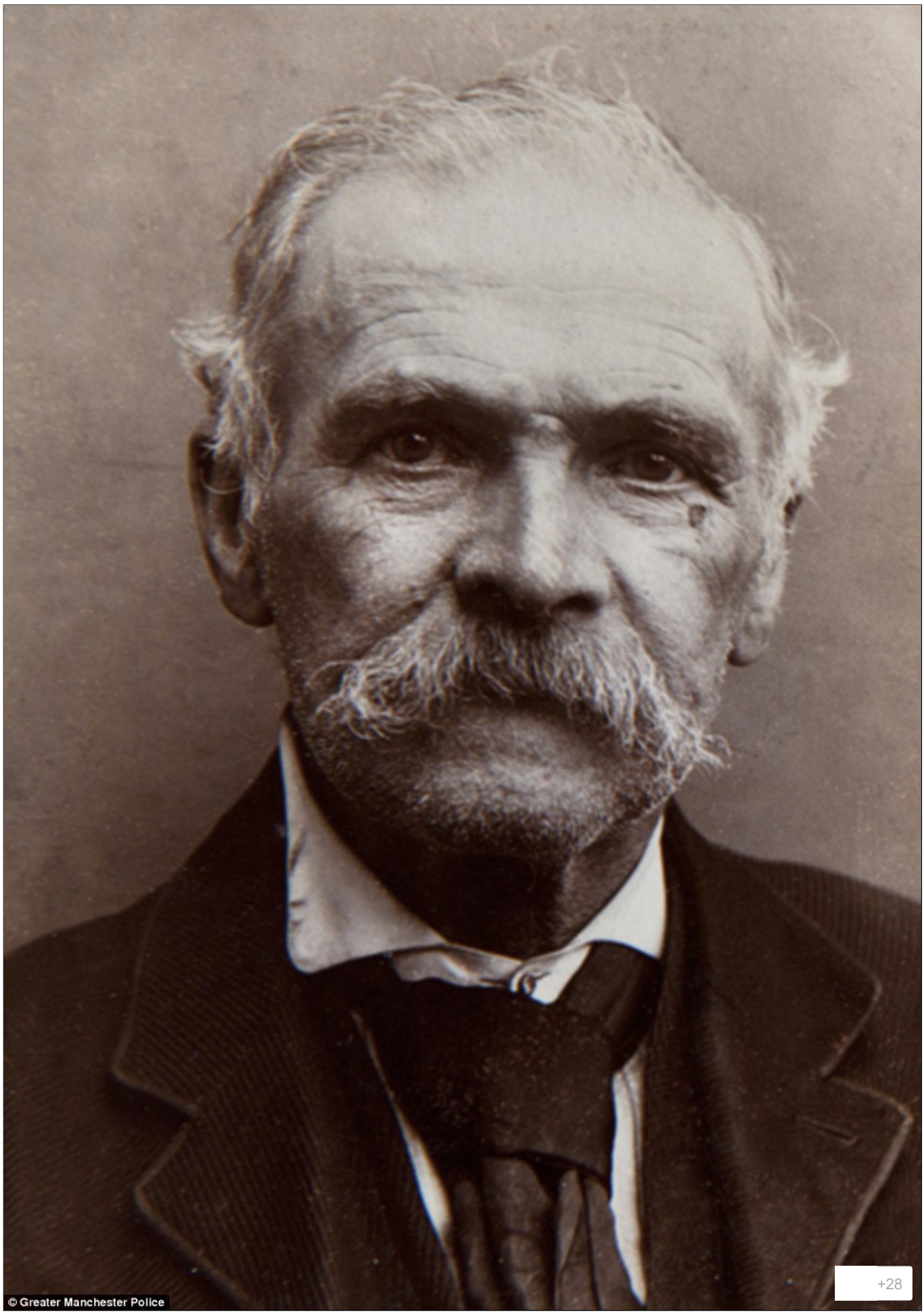
He rose up the political ranks after starting his career as a New York city fireman - but he was by no means a man of the people.



It appears Patrick Cox was another who needed 'persuading' to have his photo taken after being arrested, in 1893. He was a sailor by trade, but also made his money as a 'coiner' in Manchester. Historians at the Greater Manchester Police Museum describe coining as 'the practice of clipping precious metal from the edge of coins or reproducing coins in their entirety but from base metal.' There is little listed about Cox's crimes in the records, but with a nickname like 'Paddy the devil' - he must have had quite a reputation

This dapper looking gent was Leon Lampord. He was convicted of fraud at Manchester Assizes in July 1878 and sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. The details of his offence are unclear, but the recording of his offence was found in an early police intelligence ledger

Thomas Wallace was a prolific criminal with a career that spanned three decades. He first appears on record when he was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for larceny in 1856. On release he offended again almost immediately and was sentenced to three months for a similar crime. This pattern of behaviour continued for many years. But, in 1871 he was sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing cloth. He began his sentence in Leeds prison but escaped and went on the run. He next appeared in court in December the same year and was sentenced to seven years for receiving stolen goods. However, the previous sentence and the escape from prison go unmentioned. He was sentenced to twelve months in 1881 for escaping from prison but whether this refers to his earlier escape is unclear



Glaswegian Alexander Thompson was 55-years-old when this image was taken in 1898. He was a lithographer, or printer, by trade, but between 1892 and 1898 he had been to prison 11 times for various crimes. His occupation may have been part of his problem, as many of his convictions were for forgery and fraud. But in 1898 as he was sentenced to three months for larceny

Tweed used his influence and status to ensure that his friends and associates were elected to positions of power and the group became known as the 'Tweed Ring'.

They had control of the city's finances and would often deal out contracts or jobs in return for political support or bribes.

Exact figures are unknown but it is believed that 'Boss Tweed' plundered between $30million and $200million from the city of New York's coffers during his time in office.

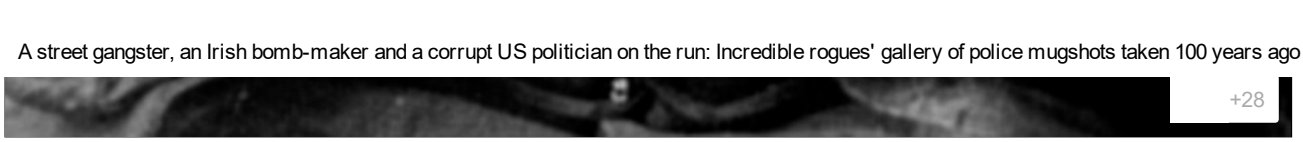
After an investigation into this dealings, Tweed was eventually convicted of forgery and larceny and served two years in prison.

Once released he was later arrested and imprisoned again, but escaped from custody while on a home visit, fleeing to Spain and Cuba.

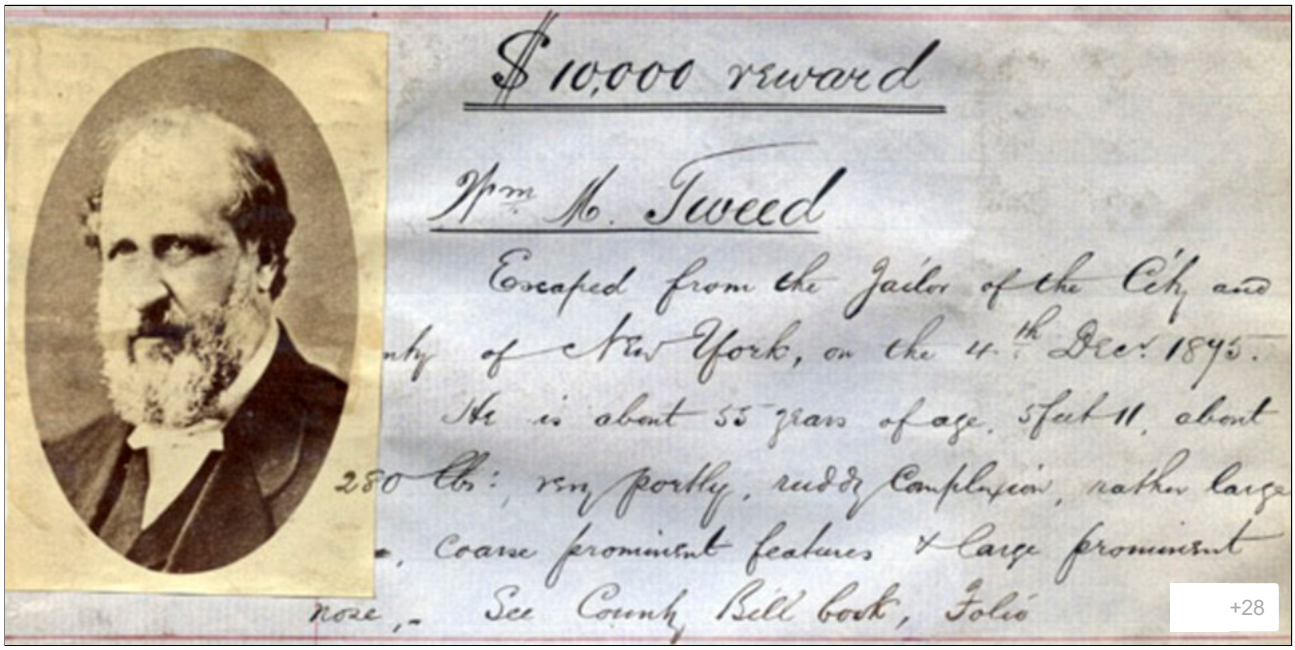
Catherine Day, a midwife from County Mayo in Ireland, was living in Rochdale when she was arrested for 'frequenting the highway with intent to commit a felony'. Catherine was later convicted and sentenced to one month in prison in 1895. Like many of the photos, hers come with a personal description, she was said to be 5ft 1in in height, with blue eyes, grey hair, a fresh complexion

Albert Haycock from Stockport is one the younger crooks in the collection. Albert, who was 21 years old when this picture was taken in 1907, was convicted of two counts of stealing iron on November 27 that year. He was sentenced to 12 days imprisonment with hard labour for each offence

William Ingham
13/6/10.



Londoner William Ingham could arguably be considered one of Victorian Manchester's most persistent, if not successful, serial offenders. Operating under a range of aliases including, Johnson, Evans, Aspinall Higgins and Jackson, he first came to the attention of the city's police force in 1865 when he was arrested for stealing a watch. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour. William continued with his criminal career committing burglary, theft, office breaking and handling counterfeit currency – among other offences – over the next 45 years. In total he was convicted 18 times and sentenced to nearly 29 years in prison. At the time of this photo he had just been arrested for office-breaking



This is no ordinary mugshot - this is in fact a reward notice for fugitive American politician William M Tweed, or 'Boss Tweed' as he was known. The notice says that Tweed had 'escaped' from a jail in the city of New York on December 4 1875. He is described as being 55 years old, 5ft 11in tall, of portly build and of ruddy complexion. His notable features were said to include a 'large, prominent, nose'. A $10,000 rewarded was offered for Tweed, but it is unlikely anyone in the Manchester area received it as he was caught after fleeing to Spain and later died in a New York prison in 1878

Tweed's image was taken from an early Manchester City Police intelligence ledger, where it seems that the city's officers were told to keep an eye out for him in case he headed to British shores.

His name may be familiar to fans of director Martin Scorsese, as he was played by British actor Jim Broadbent in the 2003 period blockbuster, Gangs of New York.

Such is the eclectic nature of the criminals inside the album, that Mr Broady and his team are unsure why they were kept together or if there was any filing system in place.

He said: 'We don't really know what the thought process was behind putting people in the book because we have found people who have hundreds of convictions and others who have just a few.

'We're really working on the assumption that these books were kept for ID purposes because it wasn't until 1901 that finger printing was brought in. '

Whatever the reason, the photos certainly offer a compelling insight into the early years of policing in Britain and the crimes of those officers encountered.

- For more information on the Greater Manchester Police Archive visit: www.gmpmuseum.co.uk

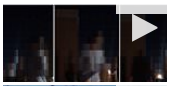
Historic mugshots capture Nebraska criminals in early 1900s

MORE VIDEOS

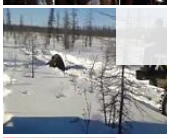
Hero dog saves his injured 'girlfriend' on deadly railway track

Partygoers allegedly

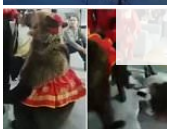
arrested at a 'mixed' party in Jeddah



Bear cruelly crushed with two trucks then clubbed to death



Grizzly bear attacks TV woman who recklessly tries to stroke it



0:00 / 0:45

Share or comment on this article

165 shares

This was obviously before Britain was invaded by ot...
by **Robert-T** 141

MOST WATCHED NEWS VIDEOS

Embed this </>

George Michael gives Oprah a tour of his Oxfordshire

Cars crash into each other on the A40 due to thick fog

Cam Newton makes Christmas wish come true

Self-driving car predicts horrific crash and slams on

Prankster uses dangerous Texas chainsaw to scare

What a bummer: Girls 'bum pads' fall out on dance floor

Tears of joy? Emotional moment boy learns his mum

Hero dog saves his injured 'girlfriend' on deadly railway

Grizzly bear attacks TV woman who recklessly tries

Spot the difference! Real Louis Vuitton bag versus a

MOST READ NEWS

Carrie Fisher 'relapsed' before

'How could they let him drink and smoke

Health curse of the middle aged: 80%

How Carrie Fisher's brutal wit and very

'Our simple life': Meet the couple who

Married man 65, is sentenced to life in

'He b becau

Comments (49)

Share what you think

Newest | Oldest | Best rated | Worst rated

View all

The comments below have not been moderated.

glossy, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

Anyone else think the fare dodger John Richardson looks like Tommy Shelby from Peaky Blinders?

Click to rate 41 8

Arjayem, East of the Sun, 9 hours ago

Eliza Wright looks like she's wearing the washing-up bowl on her head....

Click to rate 29 2

Anne, Boston, United States, 9 hours ago

The men look almost normal, but the women... Life was hard back then. So much for the good old days.

Click to rate 121 4

Dave, Spain, 9 hours ago

Crimes committed in the early 1900 s . Scotland Yard will start a task force

Click to rate 44 4

Radical_Tarquin, Brighton, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

They bear a canny resemblance to the same people I see wearing purple rossettes on election days.

Click to rate 38 103

James A. Conrad, film industry, United States, 10 hours ago

I see some actor lookalikes above but I can't remember their names at the moment.

Click to rate 27 2

Esse Mann, East Peoria, United States, 10 hours ago

Police stations guys had very nice calligraphy then....

Click to rate 134 3

genius, the flyover state, United States, 10 hours ago

Trump supporters.

Click to rate 22 163

once we were proud, stockport, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

there is always one kn@b from the States, guaranteed

Click to rate 140 11

Dave the Silhilian, SOLIHULL, United Kingdom, 10 hours ago

Edith Towell? Give over, that's Eddie Izzard!

Click to rate 56 1

modesty, Rome, Italy, 10 hours ago

When the prisons got full, they shipped them all off to Australia. Interesting pedigree they have, the Aussies.

Click to rate 72 28

Dave the Silhilian, SOLIHULL, United Kingdom, 9 hours ago

The real dregs went to Italy, where they joined the Berlusconi clan. Maybe you're related?

Click to rate 42 11

modesty, Rome, Italy, 9 hours ago

No. Ours emigrated voluntarily settling mainly on the east coast of America.

Click to rate 30 7

View all

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

We are no longer accepting comments on this article.

Who is this week's top commenter? Find out now

MORE TOP STORIES

Back to top

Home | U.K. | News | Sports | U.S. Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Columnists

Sitemap | Archive | Video Archive | Topics Index | Mobile Apps | Screensaver | RSS | Text-based site | Reader Prints | Our Papers | Top of page
Daily Mail | Mail on Sunday | This is Network | This is Money
Metro | Jobsite | Mail Travel | Zoopla.co.uk | Prime Location

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd
Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd
Contact us How to complain Advertise with us Contributors Work with Us Terms Privacy policy & cookies

Inmates vow to bust El Chapo out of prison

nypost.com

By Jamie Schram

January 27, 2017 10:30am | Updated January 27, 2017 | 12:27pm

Notorious Mexican drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman has a new group of “hitmen” ready to bust him out of prison, according to a new report.

Five tough-talking inmates shot a video inside a cell at the federal lockdown in Taft, California, revealing their plans to help Guzman escape if he’s convicted of his American crimes and sent to their institution.

“We are the hitmen who are going to take care of him,” one of the prisoners warned, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday.

“We want to tell the people this: If you bring ‘el señor’ here and if ‘el señor’ asks us to free him, we are going to take him out immediately,’” all five men pledge, speaking in Spanish.

Guzman, 59, was extradited from Mexico to New York last week to face trial on drug-trafficking and other related charges. He was also charged with federal crimes in several other states, including California.

Despite his status as the world’s biggest drug trafficker, he’s best known for his two Houdini-like prison escapes in Mexico. He was recaptured both times.

During the three-minute video, the prisoners hid their faces behind black sunglasses, hats and bandannas inside the small, sparsely furnished cell.

They took turns speaking to the camera in Spanish, boasting about having total control over the prison and enjoying free access to women, cellphones and drugs, the Daily Mail reported.

The leader of the group, identified only as “Chucky,” claims he has “bought” off all the prison guards and seemed sure that Guzman would wind up there.

“Everything is ready for you. What you say is the law. Here you have more than 3,500 soldiers,” Chucky says in the video to the Sinaloa drug cartel, which Guzman ran for decades, murdering his way to the top of the drug world.

Federal officials were disturbed by the video, issuing a statement to the LA Times.

“Upon learning of the video, BOP oversight staff on-site at the facility began working with the contractor to investigate the allegations of irregularities at the facility,” said Jill Tyson, a spokeswoman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Guzman faces life in a federal prison if convicted on the 17-count indictment in Brooklyn federal court.

© 2017 NYP Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2017 NYP Holdings. All rights reserved.

Nitrous, weed, opium and peach-pits: the intoxicants of 18th C England

/ Cory Doctorow / 10:55 am Wed Jan 4, 2017
10:55 am Wed

boingboing.net

icotill001p1

Historical novelist Debra Daley posts a master guide to the intoxicants of 18th century England, which ranged from modern favorites (laughing gas, cannabis) to historic classics (laudanum) to ratafia, "a sweet liqueur flavoured with peach or cherry kernels," which contained cyanogenic glycosides that broke down into fatal, insanity-causing hydrogen cyanide.

The 18th century -- like the centuries before and after -- were filled with people who were, frankly, high as fuck. But the 18th century marked a turning point in getting-high-ology, because of the opening of global trade routes, mass colonization, and the nascent industrial revolution, which brought more drugs, more cheaply, to England.

> The summer of 1799 saw a new fixation in British society – the inhalation of laughing gas. Nitrous oxide had been discovered by chemist Joseph Priestley in 1772 after introducing iron filings to nitric acid – the resulting gas gave Priestley a painless and giddy feeling – and was synthesised later that year by his pupil Humphry Davy. Davy was delighted by the euphoric effects of the gas, which he had tested on himself at the Pneumatic Institution in Bristol. It induced an elated state which motivated Davy to set about supervising the construction of a machine that could reliably produce large quantities of the gas with a property that he described as ‘the thrilling’.
>
> Davy soon issued invitations to people in his circle to sample the wondrous gas and experienced 'the thrilling' for themselves. They met at an upstairs drawing room at the Pneumatic Institution in a series of gatherings over the summer. The guests inhaled nitrous oxide from portable bags made of oiled green silk and happily stumbled about in wild merriment, before drifting into a dreamy sedated state. News of the nitrous oxide capers travelled and came to be repeated at ‘laughing parties’ held all over the country. Davy held nitrous sessions with poets Coleridge and Southey, the potter Josiah Wedgwood and the thesaurist Peter Roget.
>
> People could not get enough of a gas that allowed “uneasiness [to be]”, as Davy put it, “for a few minutes swallowed up in pleasure.” He proposed in 1799 that nitrous oxide might be used in surgical operations to deaden pain; but his suggestion went unheeded for another forty-five years. It’s a theme that recurs with any account of the history of mind-altering substances: that they can do medical good is overshadowed by their good-time nature.

High Times in the 18th Century [Debra Daley/The History Girls]

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Is this the GATEWAY TO HEAVEN? Startling entrance discovered by amateur rocket scientists

express.co.uk

express_logo

Is this the GATEWAY TO HEAVEN? Startling entrance discovered by amateur rocket scientists

THE 'Gateway to Heaven' has been discovered by the amateur rocket scientists behind the highest ever non-commercial rocket flight ever, it has been claimed.

By Katie Mansfield
PUBLISHED: 04:00, Sat, Dec 31, 2016 | UPDATED: 14:52, Sat, Dec 31, 2016

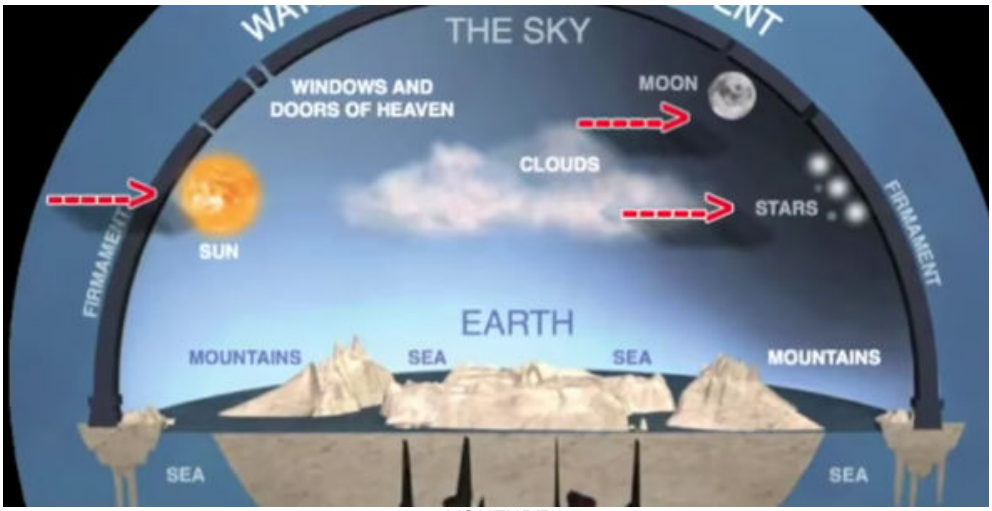
Amateur scientists claim they found the door after a series of rockets were sent into the atmosphere - as high as 73 miles, 11 miles beyond the official start of outer space.

The men behind the claim, who subscribe to the controversial school of thought that the Earth is flat, say two rockets hit the 'dome of the Earth' and found the pearly gates.

The video claims the "windows and doors of Heaven" can be found just above the sun and clouds and in line with the Moon.

Reaching an altitude of some 380,000ft, the GoFast 2014 Rocket is the highest and fastest amateur rocket ever launched, according to the group.

A loud rattling noise marks the moment the missile supposedly reaches the Gateway to Heaven and further footage shows the entrance appear in a constellation of stars.



YOUTUBE

The "windows and doors of Heaven" can be found just above the sun and clouds

The rocket is believed to have been launched in California

A rattling sound can be heard as the rocket 'hits' the dome

They say the rocket appears to prove the age-old theory that the globe is flat, with hardcore Flat Earthers claiming the world is capped off with a glass dome that prevents mankind from leaving the planet - hence the doorway.

A second camera shows a white line which is said to be the edge of the glass dome or, according to some conspiracy theorists, proof the Earth is surrounded by an ice-cap wall.

The rocket reaches an altitude of some 380,000ft

A second camera shows a white line which is said to be the edge of the glass dome

It is thought the rockets were launched from California and supporters say the video disproves the notion of infinite space.

YOUTUBE

YOUTUBE

YOUTUBE

But critics with a slightly more traditionally scientific view of the cosmos were quick to rubbish the claim saying the rockets simply ran out of fuel!

Flat Earth supporter Mark Sargent runs enclosed world.com, which says: "Early in 2015, he released a series of youtube videos titled Flat Earth Clues, which delve into the possibility of our human civilisation actually being inside a 'Truman show' like enclosed system, and how it's been hidden from the public since 1956.

"Mark's hope is that one day the 100th Monkey scenario will occur, the majority of the population will start seeing things with new eyes, and the world will literally change."

Northern and Shell Copyright ©2017 Express Newspapers. "Daily Express" is a registered trademark. All rights reserved.

YOUTUBE

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Israel urged to apologise for the disappearance of hundreds of babies

16:29 EST, 3 January 2017 |

dailymail.co.uk

- **About 1,000 children disappeared in Israel's early years in the 1940s and 1950s**
- **Families were mostly Jewish immigrants from Yemen and other Arab countries**
- **They believe hundreds of babies declared dead by doctors were actually stolen**
- **Families believe they were abducted for adoption by European Jewish couples**

By Hannah Al-othman For Mailonline

Israel has opened up ts national archive of documents aimed at putting to rest decades-old allegations of a racket in stolen babies.

The 200,000 now declassified documents, were made available in an online database last week, in a move designed to appease families of children who went missing in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

About 1,000 children, mostly Jewish immigrants from Yemen and other Arab countries, disappeared in Israel's early years, and families of some of the children believe they were abducted for adoption by European Jewish couples.

Frecha Amar, 84, from a Moroccan descent, holds a picture of her baby, who she says was abducted in 1958, as she poses with her daughter Yael Spatter and her grandchildren at her home in Kfar Chabad, near Tel-Aviv

The children disappeared during a wave of Yemenite Jewish emigration to the newly created state of Israel in around 1950, and Yemenite activists have charged that hundreds of babies declared dead by doctors were actually stolen.

The activists say the babies went missing from camps set up to host Yemenites along with Jews arriving from other Arab countries in the early 1950s.

Doctors at the camps told them their children had died, but refused to hand over the bodies or death certificates.

Yona Musa, 76, from a Yemeni descent, poses with a portrait of her and her husband at her home in the Israeli city of Herzliya, near Tel Aviv. Musa belives her baby was abducted more than 60 years ago

Activists and family members believe up to several thousand babies were taken in the years after Israel was founded in 1948, mainly from Jewish Yemenite families, but also from immigrants of other Arab or Balkan nations.

Official inquiries have found that most of the missing babies had died, pointing out the poor conditions in reception camps for the immigrants.

But many parents remain unconvinced.

Gil Grunbaum, 60, from Tunisian descent, poses with an old picture of his adoptive parents on at his home in the city of Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv

Gil Grunbaum, who was adopted as a child, is one of those calling upon the government to apologise.

He found out that he had been secretly dopted by accident - nearly 40 years after the event and managed to locate his biological mother.

He tracked down his mother, originally from Tunisia, after a three-year search and over the opposition of Israeli welfare authorities.

Nurses and mothers taking care of Yemenite children, in Rosh Ha'ayin, in Israel in 1949

He told Al Jazeera: 'The release of these documents is an important first step - not least because they prove the families were not hallucinating, as they have often been told. But there is much more the government can and should do. Public pressure will continue to grow for more answers.'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in July he would support opening the country's archives, which would normally be classified until 2031.

Tsil Levine, right, cries as she is hugged by her biological mother Margalit Umassi after genetic tests had determined that she is her baby girl who had gone missing

Among the documents already made public is a confidential report by a government inquiry.

It found that most of the children who disappeared were dead and that the fate of dozens more was unknown, but offered no proof that they had been kidnapped.

The opening of the Israel State Archives will mean that families can investigate the circumstances of their children's disappearances.

'There are no more classified documents,' the archive said.

Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked said the documents contained no 'smoking guns' indicating an organised kidnapping.

Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, who oversaw the declassification, encouraged Israelis who think they were adopted in the affair to participate in an activist initiative to collect DNA samples to try to match them with their biological families.

Comments (

Whitegold46, Cheadle Hulme, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

You know I'm at the point where nothing shocks me anymore... What a world we live in..

Dazza-expat-France, Arles, France, about 7 hours ago

Shocking if true.

peter, eastleigh, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

This won't make the BBC news. With DNA available maybe some of the people could be matched to the UK database.

Aureus, London, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

How could this possibly be? I thought Israel could never do any wrong.

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Italy pizzeria hands out free pizzas to traffic jam - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 18 January 2017

A pizzeria owner in northern Italy has won plaudits from his compatriots after handing out free pizzas to drivers stuck in a huge traffic jam.

Motorists in Genoa were caught in long tailbacks during the evening rush on Monday because of a large fire raging in nearby hills. Local roads - including the motorway - were closed due to smoke, leaving many drivers stuck in their vehicles for hours.

When local pizzeria owner Simone Di Maria saw news of the gridlock online, he set about delivering food and water to some of those who were stuck, Il Secolo XIX reports. Some took to Facebook to express their gratitude, with one famished driver describing it as a "godsend" after hours of queuing.

In response, Mr Di Maria said that he imagined himself in their shoes. "You can't leave people starving at dinner time," he wrote on the pizzeria's Facebook page. "A margherita is a small gesture that can get a bad day back on track."

It has since been liked by more than 1,500 people and attracted dozens of comments praising the act of generosity. Among a stream of heart and applause emojis, one woman called on the mayor to publicly thank those involved for acting in a way that is "unfortunately increasingly rare these days".

Fire crews have been battling flames in the hills around Genoa for days, forcing the evacuation of some homes. Mr Di Maria says flames came within 100m (330ft) of his own home, and adds that the real thanks should go to the emergency services "who worked tirelessly, at great risk, to ensure the safety of us all".

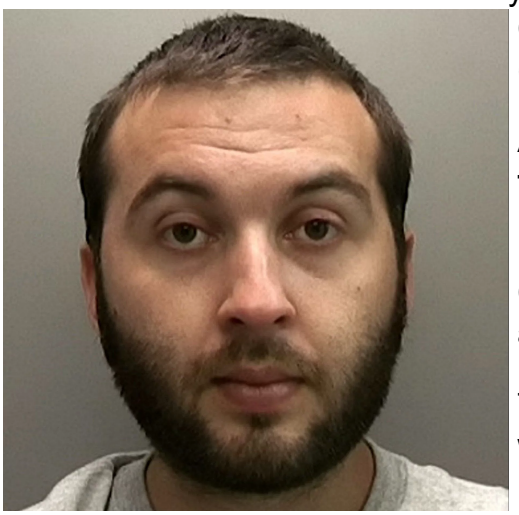
Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Jack the Ripper fanatic scrawled 'JACK' on body of woman he stabbed to death

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukTuesday 24 Jan 2017 8:16 pm



Casey Scott went on the run for three days after the murder (Picture: SWNS)

A Jack the Ripper fanatic strangled and stabbed an escort to death before scrawling 'JACK' on her dead body, a court heard.

Casey Scott also took a photograph of Lenuta Haidemac, 28, as she lay naked on the bathroom floor of his studio flat.

The 29-year-old arranged to pay £150 for an hour's sex session with the victim on July 22, reports The Sun

He had researched the notorious killer shortly before he stabbed the mum-of-two with a 10cm blade, Lincoln Crown Court heard.

The man, from Skegness, was jailed for a minimum of 19 years.

Lenuta Loana Haidemac lived with her partner and two children (Picture: SWNS)

Sarah Knight, prosecuting, said the woman had been lured to the home by Scott where she was strangled and stabbed in the neck.

She said: 'Once inside his flat, sexual activity having taken place between them, he strangled her and subjected her to a violent knife attack.

'He then degraded her naked dead body still further by scrawling the word 'JACK' across her abdomen, a morbid reference to his internet search concerning Jack the Ripper.'

Lenuta, who lived in Boston with her partner and two children, advertised her escort services online.

Her partner, Octavian Selistean, dropped her off for the meet and received a text from her to say she had arrived safely at the flat in Drummond Road – he never heard from her again.

The flat in Skegness where the body was found (Picture: SWNS)
She was strangled and stabbed in the neck twice (Picture: SWNS)

A blood-stained knife had been left on the pillow and the victim's body was found in the bathroom, the court heard.

She had been strangled and stabbed twice in the neck, with two puncture wounds beneath her nipples.

Scott was eventually arrested 20 miles from the murder scene.

Speaking after the hearing, Detective Chief Inspector Diane Coulson, from Lincolnshire Police, said: ‘Casey Scott has never accounted for his actions so we may never know what led to Lenuta’s brutal killing.

‘Whatever happened that day it left a family grieving the loss of a much-loved young woman.

‘Coming to terms with her loss will be an ongoing journey for them but I hope that today’s sentence and the knowledge that Scott will be behind bars for at least 19 years, will help.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Japan city tackles language barrier with quirky signs - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 9 February 2017

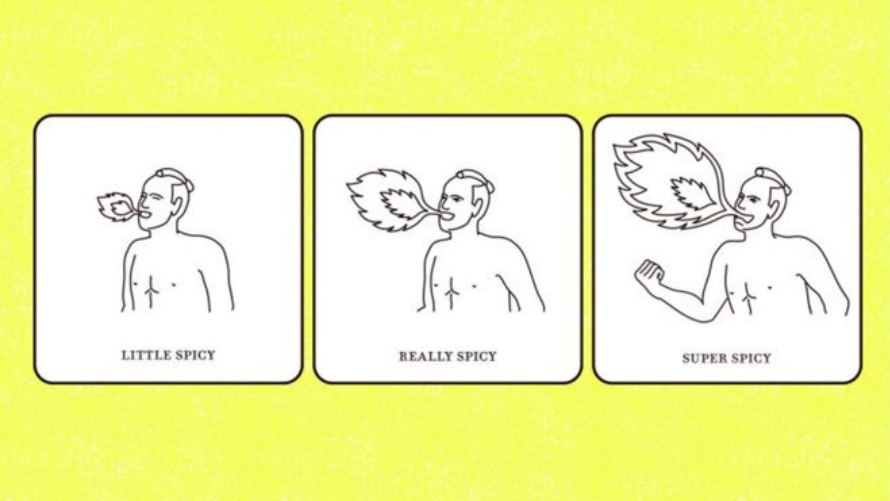


Image copyrightMorioka Regional Development Bureau

Officials in northern Japan are trying to reach out to foreign visitors by using comical signs to inform them about local customs and food.

The signs are in use in the city of Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, where officials hope they will make visitors who don't speak Japanese feel more welcome, The Japan Times reports.

Twenty-six images are available for businesses to download online: one shows a cheerful little pig inside a bowl to inform diners that the dish contains pork. Another tells people to dry off before entering the changing room at hot springs, and shows a dripping-wet man in a puddle so large that a rubber duck has appeared in it. Short English phrases beneath each image explain the meaning.

Takefumi Shimomukai, who heads the Morioka Regional Development Bureau, says they wanted to do something simple but fun to attract people's interest. The area is less of a draw for foreigners than tourist hubs like Tokyo and Kyoto, and communication troubles have made some locals reluctant to reach out to visitors. "Until recently some owners believed their profits from serving only locals were sufficient, and due to the language barrier, they may have left foreign visitors with a feeling that they were not welcome," he says.

Slightly more hi-tech approaches to dealing with communication problems have been rolled out elsewhere in Japan, as the number of foreign visitors grows. Last year, a new app was trialled that translates rail announcements into a visitor's own language, and some regions offer 24-hour multilingual hotlines for advice on everything from finding a doctor to sending luggage home.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Images show how Samurai proved their honour by killing themselves

dailymail.co.uk

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Live by the sword, die by the sword: Stunning 130-year-old images show a glimpse of life for Japanese Samurai warriors - and how they proved their honour by stabbing themselves to death

- **The pictures show the Japanese Samurai warriors from as far back as 150 years ago in their traditional attire**
- **Included in the amazing photographs are some showing warriors appearing to commit suicide**
- **The ceremonial disembowelment, known as Harakiri or Seppuku, is usually performed in front of a crowd**
- **Warriors would voluntarily kill themselves by plunging a knife into their stomachs and slicing it open**

By Gareth Davies For Mailonline

A fascinating set of photographs dating back 150 years show life inside the Japanese Samurai warrior tribes.

They include a display of their tradition of Harakiri, also known as Seppuku. It was used by warriors who wanted to die with honour - either voluntarily or if they had been caught by the enemy.

The ceremonial disembowelment was usually part of a more elaborate ritual and performed in front of spectators. The most startling image shows one warrior soaked in blood with his eyes staring as the sword is plunged into his stomach. It is not known if the image captured a genuine suicide, or if it was staged for early cameras.

The man is seen appearing to plunge a blade into the abdomen, with blood marks on his face.

A Samurai warrior appears to commit Seppuku or Harakiri in Japan - the ritual of taking one's life through disembowelment

A Harakiri scene of the Samurai - warriors overseeing the ritual suicide of one of their own (dressed in white)

- From his Space Samurai suit to a kanji cloak, Bowie had a... Truth of the Battle of Culloden finally revealed: How Bonny... AMC threatens to sue Walking Dead fan site if it guesses who...

The Samurai originated in the Heian period dating back to 710 and in particular campaigns to subdue the native Emirishi in the Tohuku region of the northern part of Honshu.

Over the centuries they became more and more powerful and eventually became the 'warrior nobility' of Japan, making up the ruling class from about the 12th to the 19th century.

The Samurai followed a set of Confucian influenced rules that came to be known as bushido - literally 'the way of the warrior'.

The unwritten and unspoken code emphasised frugality, loyalty, martial arts mastery, and honor unto death.

But the code also evolved to stress heroic bravery, fierce family pride, and selfless, at times senseless devotion of master and man.

A group of Samurai or Japanese warriors with their ancient arms and armour, circa 1870

A photograph taken and coloured by Felice Beato of women in a traditional Japanese shop back in the 19th century

One of the first war photographers Venetian-born Felice Beato took this photo around the time of 1862

During the 15th and 16th centuries there were many warring factions, but later wars reduced in number.

The fearsome warriors wore plate armour and a vast array of weapons including the bow and arrow, spears, guns, and of course, the Samurai sword.

But as peace seemed to endure during the Edo period, many became teachers, artists or bureaucrats as the need for martial skills became less important.

And when Emperor Meiji came to power in 1868 he began to abolish the Samurai's powers.

Firstly, he stripped their right to be the only armed force in Japan and began to introduce a western style conscripted army from 1873.

A Group of Samurai circa 1890 - an Illustration from the the booklet Au Japon, Types, Costumes and Moeurs

A Samurai warrior in Japan poses in traditional armour and footwear blowing into a shell

Three Japanese Samurai warriors in armour and ready for battle with their weapons on stand-by

Three Japanese Samurai warriors pictured in their colourful war attire and equiped with a number of swords circa 1990

The Samurai became the shizoku, merging with another social class under Meiji reforms and the right to wear a katana (sword) was lost along with the power to execute anyone who disrespected them in public.

The name shizoku continued to be a part of Japanese culture until the end of World War Two but was outlawed in 1947.

Despite the Samurai making up no more than 10 per cent of the Japanese population at its height, its influence is still heavily seen in Japanese culture, in particular modern martial arts.

The comments below have not been moderated.

Ceecee1974, London, United Kingdom, 13 minutes ago

These are definite

, Anywhereandnowhere, United States, 12 minutes ago

I think that they're more probable

Babbling Philosopher, somewhere, United States, 18 minutes ago

I wonder where in history where their culture gone so extreme the deep end... look at the islanders how chilled and easy nature they are -- catch fish, drink coconut, enjoy life... this is FAR too my'uch amigo.

Babbling Philosopher, somewhere, United States, 20 minutes ago

My ex GF was J'nese... what a culture.

Ruffguy, Tulsa, United States, 29 minutes ago

Wow!! I really dig their outfits!

Judge Dredd, Aberdeen, 34 minutes ago

The process of taking the photograph in those days and the requirement to really pose the models has turned these images into masterpieces.

2
50

Krusty Loves You, oakland, United States, 40 minutes ago

130 year old images in colour no less! uh-mazing!

Gathsah, Egatnecrep Tcaf central, United States, 41 minutes ago

I think if Trump wants to win hearts and minds he should prove his honour by stabbing himself to death too. TODAY PLEASE.

Judge Dredd, Aberdeen, 33 minutes ago

Listen to what the man says instead of wallowing in the lies of your stinking Liberal Media.

Mailbiter, I play the, Qatar, 4 minutes ago

We do, Dredd. The Trumpanzee lies every time he opens his gob. You snowflakes refuse to hear it.

hornet600, Nottingham, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

'pictured with a,number of swords circa 1990'. Ha ha you DM child reporters really are an embarrassment.

Suegoldie, Thetford, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

Was this wrote by an American?

2 of 3 repliesSee all replies

Grouse, Behind enemy lines, Isle Of Man, 18 minutes ago

I think you missed the irony ET AL.

Falklandsrbritish, Lowestoft, United Kingdom, 3 minutes ago

Americans don't get irony

Maedusa, Glasgow, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

My mum's cousin brought a beautiful katana back from WWII. We like knowing that the family who lost it, grieved for it. Some small revenge for the brutalities handed out to POWs, of which another of my family members was one.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Jesus ‘is going to return in 2022’ when two stars collide, rabbi claims metro.co.uk

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.ukTuesday 17 Jan 2017 4:04 pm

Forget Jamiroquai and the KLF reuniting, there’s another, even better comeback on the cards – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Or at least that’s what one rabbi reckons – claiming that a spectacular astronomical event in 2022 heralds the return of Jesus.

In 2022, two stars in the Northern Cross – in star system KIC 9832227 will collide in 2022, in a blast which will be visible to the naked eye from Earth, Calvin College experts predict.

Rabbi Yosef Berger of King David’s Tomb in Mount Zion, Jerusalem, cited the 12th century Rabbi Moses ben Maimon – known as Rambam, or Maimonides.

Berger told Breaking Israel News, ‘The Rambam brings this verse about a star appearing as proof that the Messiah will come one day.

Berger refers to the Zohar – a collection of commentaries on the Jewish Torah, saying, ‘The Zohar states explicitly that the Messianic process will be accompanied by several stars appearing.’

‘The Zohar goes into great depth, describing how many stars, and which colours they will be.’

Berger quotes Numbers 24:17. ‘I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh; there shall step forth a star out of Yakov, and a scepter shall rise out of Yisrael, and shall smite through the corners of Moab, and break down all the sons of Seth.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Jeweller finds old carpet is worth thousands because of all the gold shavings

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukSunday 22 Jan 2017 1:11 pm

This jeweller's carpet turned out to be worth thousands because it was covered in specks of gold dust (Picture: Solent News)

A jewellery store owner who ripped out his old carpet was stunned to discover that it was worth more than £13,000 because it was covered in specks of gold dust.

Richard Blampied, who runs Aurum Jewellers, in St Helier, Jersey, with his daughter, was shocked when he was told the value of the precious metals trodden into the carpet.

The family had decided to replace the 15-year-old carpet, which lay under seven workstations were craftsmen made jewellery, but sent it to a bullion merchants to see its value before they threw it away.

When they got it back, they found out it was worth £13,424.40 after it was burnt to reveal the metal and the price of the left over gold, platinum and silver was calculated.

Mr Blampied, 71, who set up a competition to see the money they receive donated to charity, said: 'We are so delighted at the amount raised from the carpet, it has far exceed the value any of us were anticipating.

Richard Blampied, the owner of Aurum Jewellers, was shocked to discover the carpet was worth more than £13,000 (Picture: Solent News)

'The carpet was cleaned regularly, but with people walking over it all day there must quite a lot of dust and shreddings trodden into it.

'This is not money that we have lost or missed out on and, after speaking to our staff, we decided this time to donate the money received to charity.

After the carpet was ripped up, it was sent to MasterMelts bullion merchants, in London.

Director Gary Williams, 54, said: 'When I heard about the competition they were running I was worried. Sometimes there's only a few hundred pounds in a carpet that is sent to us and sometimes there can be no value in the carpet.

The money will be donated to Jersey Hospice (Picture: Solent News)

'But this turned out to be one of the largest amounts we have processed from a carpet sent to us.'

The competition, in which participants had to guess the value of the dust in the carpet, was won by Katie McFarlane, from Jersey, who guessed the amount returned would be £12,450.

She said: 'I picked the hospice because they are a big help to a lot of families at a difficult time.

‘The guess I made was just a pure random figure, but I was really glad when I found out I had won and the charity would be getting the money from Aurums.’

Jersey Hospice CEO Emelita Robbins said: ‘We were thrilled when we got the call from Aurum to say that we had been chosen as the charity to benefit.’

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Thieves nick £5,000,000 in jewels at strike of midnight on New Year's Eve

metro.co.uk

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.ukTuesday 3 Jan 2017 11:20 am

Two of the men attacked a door with wrenches and a hammer (Picture: NYPD)

Thieves managed to pull off a £4.9 million jewellery heist by striking just after the stroke of midnight on New Years Eve.

Yes, really.

Three criminals used wrenches and hammers to smash their way into the Gregg Ruth outlet in New York during loud fireworks and celebrations on Sunday.

Police state that the crime was ‘100% planned’ to coincide with the festivities, as they struck at 12.01am.

At that particular time, 7,000 of the city’s police were at the enormous Times Square New Year’s Eve party – just a few blocks away.

Thieves break into Gregg Ruth gem dealership

One of the men looked directly into the CCTV (Picture: NYPD)
Police said that the crime was ‘100% planned’ to happen alongside festivities (Picture: NYPD)

However, despite their careful planning, the thieves forgot one thing… to conceal their identities.

Before making off with bags full of diamond-encrusted bracelets, earrings and necklaces, two of the criminals stared directly into CCTV cameras.

A third thief was seen on the phone during the break-in, leading police to belief a fourth person may be involved.

British couple's deaths treated as suicide despite feet and hands being tied up

Although the trio are yet to be found, it is believed that they had inside help.

The two safes that were ransacked were either unlocked, or the thieves had the codes.

Speaking to the New York Post, one employee said: 'It's weird to me that they randomly tried that floor in this building.

'How would somebody know to come here? That's real fishy. It definitely seems like an inside job.'

A police source said the owner is out of the country in India.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Asda sparks fierce debate after move to stock ketchup in fridge

standard.co.uk

- Jamie Bullen
- a day ago

A south London supermarket has started storing ketchup in the fridge amid a fierce debate on social media about where to keep the condiment.

Twitter users have reacted in a frenzy following an argument whether it was best to place ketchup in a fridge or in a cupboard.

And now Asda declared it had “joined the ketchup debate” by stocking its own brand on shelves and in fridges at its superstore near Clapham Junction station.

The supermarket tweeted: “Where do you keep your tomato ketchup? Our colleagues at Asda Clapham have joined the debate by stocking them on shelves AND in the fridge.”

More than 2,000 votes have been cast in a Twitter poll with cupboard narrowly ahead on 54 per cent with 14 hours to go until it closed.

Asda's Victoria Williams told the Daily Mail: “Tomato ketchup is a staple of many of our customers weekly shop but recent debate has prompted us to trial two areas to stock our great value own brand tomato ketchup sauces, so we can end the debate once and for all and give everyone what they want.”

The debate divided Twitter as users set out their reasons for explaining where they keep ketchup in their homes.

One woman tweeted: “There's apparently a debate over whether ketchup goes in the cupboard or the fridge? It goes in the cupboard you weirdos! End debate.

Naomi Lordan wrote: “definitely in the cupboard it's not right cold.”

But another man posted: “Ketchup is supposed to go in the fridge so it doesn't spoil quickly.”

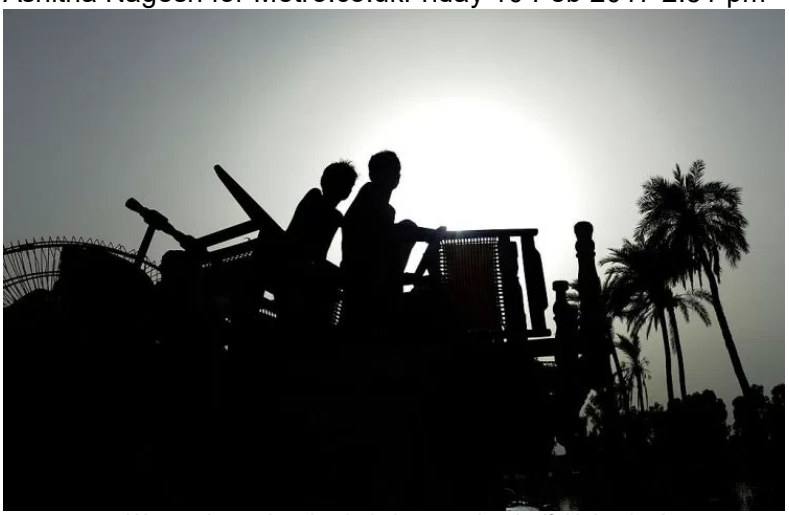
Thank you for supporting standard.co.uk

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Woman burned to death during exorcism by 'faith healers'

metro.co.uk

Ashitha Nagesh for Metro.co.ukFriday 10 Feb 2017 2:51 pm



Soraiya Begum died in Dera Ghazi Khan (Picture: Getty Images)

Woman burned to death during exorcism by 'faith healers'

A woman has died after being tied upside down and set alight by two so-called ‘faith healers’.

Soraiya Begum, from Dera Ghazi Khan in Pakistan, was taken to the healers by her husband after she started talking to herself.

They claimed she was possessed by Djinns – evil spirits – and beat, tortured and burned her during the exorcism.

Soraiya’s husband reportedly begged them to stop, as he couldn’t bear to see his wife go through such a horrific ordeal.

Tragically, she was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Psychiatrists in Pakistan have since said that, judging from the symptoms she had apparently been exhibiting, Soraiya was likely suffering from schizophrenia.

‘It is sad that ignorance still prevails in our society about treatable medical conditions, where people live normal lives if given the proper medical attention they require,’ Dr Mohammad Sultan, head of psychiatry at Khyber Medical College in Peshawar, told Pakistani broadcaster Geo News

‘I cannot understand why in a place like Kohat, where multiple qualified psychiatrists are practicing and offering free-of-cost treatment, people still end up going to these so-called faith healers.’

Police are now hunting the so-called healers, who disappeared shortly after Soraiya’s death.

‘It is the height of ignorance,’ Dr Sultan added. ‘We have failed as a nation to educate our masses about clinical problems that can be easily treated.

‘Because of our failure, these fake Pirs [faith healers] take advantage of hte lack of literacy, adn prey on the ignorant. [Soraiya] did not have to die.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Teenager posing for picture with cobra dies after getting bitten

metro.co.uk

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.ukTuesday 7 Feb 2017 12:23 pm

Somnath Mhatre kissing the deadly cobra (Picture: SWNS)

A teenager has died after being bitten by a cobra while attempting to kiss it for a photo.

Somnath Mhatre, 18, was working as a volunteer snake rescuer when he decided to pose with the reptile for a picture.

He had just picked up the venomous cobra from a car in a bid to take it to a safe place.

As he pecked the snake on the head, the creature turned and sank its fangs into the teenager's chest.

Mhatre was rushed to hospital in Navi Mumbai, India, where he fought for his life, but died five days later.

He had plucked the venomous reptile from a car in a bid to take it to a safe place (Picture: SWNS)

When he posed for a photo attempting to peck the snake on the head, the hooded animal turned on him (Picture: SWNS)

He fought for his life, but died five days later (Picture: SWNS)

A colleague, who did not want to be named, said: 'Somnath had gone to rescue a snake from a car at central business district Belapur.

'But after successfully rescuing the cobra, he took it to another location where was attempting to record his act of kissing the cobra on its head.

'It was during that photo-op the snake suddenly turned and bit Somnath on his chest.'

Animal lover Mr Mhatre – who had rescued more than 100 snakes – died on February 2.

Activists are now calling on the Forest Department to issue guidelines to take action against those involved in performing and posting pictures of stunts involving snakes.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

The cult of Santa Muerte: Lady of Holy Death rattles Catholic church as number of devotees grows

| *December 26, 2016 4:31 PM ET* nationalpost.com

Holding a scythe in one hand and a globe in the other, the Santa Muerte could be easily mistaken for the Grim Reaper. But to her supporters, this skeletal saint, nicknamed “skinny woman”, has the power to heal illness, bring prosperity and even help them find love.

Known as the patron saint of violent drug cartels for her relative tolerance, Our Lady of Holy Death is perhaps the fastest-growing religion in the Americas.

When Jasmin Marquez was sentenced to life in prison but freed after only a year, she attributed the “miracle” to this smiling skeleton.

Standing reverently before the shrine of the Santa Muerte, she carefully lit a cigarette and let it burn without toking. “It’s for her,” she explained, in a whisper so as not to disturb the other worshippers.

Marquez, 27, spoke from Tepito, one of Mexico City’s most dangerous neighbourhoods and the principal sanctuary of a cult that now has millions of faithful in its grip.

“From Chile to Canada, Santa Muerte has no rival in terms of the rapidity and scope of its expansion,” said Andrew Chesnut, professor of religious studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and author of Devoted to Death: Santa Muerte, the Skeleton Saint.

“In 2001, when devotion to the folk religion first went public in Mexico, Saint Death was unknown to 99 per cent of Mexicans. In just 15 years Santa Muerte has attracted an estimated 10 to 12 million devotees, primarily in Mexico, Central America, and the U.S.”

Yuri Cortez / AFP / Getty Images View of an altar of the Santa Muerte de los Milagros

He added that the religion now also has followers across the globe, “including in the U.K., Australia”.

Worship of the Santa Muerte was initially clandestine, the prayers and rites quietly uttered at altars fashioned by believers in their homes.

More forgiving than the Catholic church – she is said not to punish traditional sins – she grew popular in Mexico’s prisons. Inmates inscribe her on cell walls. Some hold on to small pieces of paper bearing her drawing when they sleep. Counter-narcotics teams have often found shrines in raids on drug lord’s safe houses. Marquez, who was coy about the reasons for her criminal conviction, bears a tattoo of the saint on her arm.

Around the turn of the 21st century, the Santa Muerte burst into the mainstream. One of the people credited with this change is Enriqueta Romero, a charismatic follower often referred to as the religion’s “high priestess”. Romero bears little relation to a priestess in the traditional sense. Having grown up in Tepito, she speaks in

colourful slang, peppered with expletives. Her hair is dyed black, but for a shock of white across the top. She wears white high heels, and grins with the flash of a golden tooth.

Figurines of the saint adorn her ears.

Now in her 70s, she grew up with the deity in her home and said she simply decided one day to place her outside for all to see.

> She is not vengeful, she will not hasten your death. She is part of life and she protects those no one else will

“I believed she shouldn’t stay hidden any more,” she said.

“I love the death, her physique. She shouldn’t be feared. She is not vengeful, she will not hasten your death. She is part of life and she protects those no one else will.”

“They call me the priestess, but I don’t do weddings, confirmations or baptisms,” she said. “The altar is what has faith.” The skeleton is now protected by a glass panel. When The Daily Telegraph visited she was dressed in a wig of long dark brown hair and a green and gold silk robe. Portraits hung beside the Santa Muerte show her past outfits: a silver headscarf dotted with jewels, a wedding dress and veil, a flamboyant green floor-length dress adorned with a feather boa and a wide-brimmed hat.

Romero is defensive of her skeleton. “Everyone thinks the Santa Muerte is for narcos, (drug dealers)” she said. “But it can be whatever you want and for whoever wants to have faith in her.” Worshippers included people from all walks of life. Some were locals, some had travelled from countries around the continent, but each had the intention of forming a pact with the saint. One man offered the skeleton a bottle of cheap tequila. He had been an alcoholic, but Romero said she got him sober, and is now the receptacle for his vices. He now visits the shrine every two weeks.

“I’ve tried to get sober for a year but she was the only thing that has kept me sober this long,” he said, adding that he hadn’t touched alcohol for eight months, nor missed a visit.

Yuri Cortez / AFP / Getty Images A man purifies an image od the Santa Muerte (Holy Death) during a celebration at a sanctuary in Santa Maria Cuautepec, Tultitlan, Mexico on February 7, 201

Historians say the folk religion has its roots in Mexico’s ancient Aztec culture. But its modern iteration incorporates many of the rituals of the Catholic church. Romero believes the two religions are symbiotic – on the front of the shelter that houses the Santa Muerte hangs a statue of Jesus on the cross. They are, she says, both ways of worshipping the same God.

Devotees mix traditional religious offerings with their own belief of what the skeleton might enjoy. The altar at her bony feet has both gently flickering votive candles and Lambrusco wine. Instead of incense, one man lit a marijuana joint.

These actions have only further incensed the Catholic church, which already viewed the folk religion as a blasphemous threat to its standing in Mexico.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Culture, has declared the faith the “degeneration of religion”.

“It’s not religion just because it’s dressed up like religion; it’s a blasphemy against religion,” he said.

The Mexican government briefly tried to suppress the cult, with the army demolishing 40 roadside shrines close to the U.S. border in 2009.

But the efforts failed, and by the time Ravasi spoke in 2013, the Santa Muerte had come to rival the Virgin of Guadalupe, the country's "national patroness" in popularity.

Away from the centre of Mexico City, not everyone sees the religion this way. Maria, 43, a taxi driver who chose not to give her surname, spoke in fear of the deity. She, too, had worshipped her once, she said. But she felt too controlled by her and so she decided to stop. In the following year, her brother, son-in-law and an uncle all died, one in a car accident and two from illnesses. "Be careful," she said. "Research her by all means, but don't join her.

"Because once you do she won't let you leave."

With files from James Frederick

© 2016 National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Large Seal Spotted Climbing On Car, Roaming Through Australian Town

huffingtonpost.com

Hey there, Toyota.

12/26/2016 12:30 pm ET
Steven Hoffer Senior Editor, The Huffington Post

A giant Australian fur seal was spotted lounging on a car and roaming the streets of Newstead, Australia, on Monday, according to Tasmania police.

The seal, dubbed “Mr. Lou-Seal” by local authorities, seemed to have an affinity for a particular Toyota, judging by photos of the animal on Facebook.

“He’s taken a bit of a shining to a resident’s vehicle, which he lay on and had a bit of a sleep on for a while before he climbed up and over the roof, leaving considerable damage to that vehicle,” Sergeant Renee Stewart of the Tasmania Police told the Sydney Morning Herald.

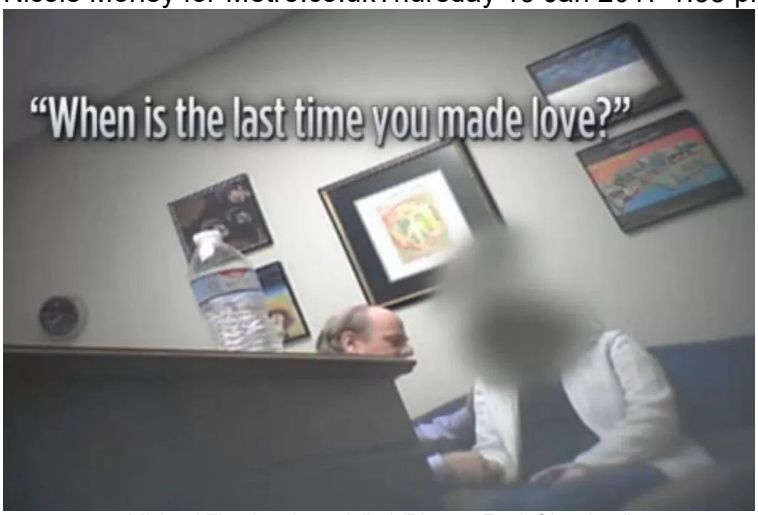
Police later shared this “sealiously” helpful update:

Copyright © 2016 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Lawyer who hypnotised women to sexually assault them jailed as video emerges metro.co.uk

Nicole Morley for Metro.co.ukThursday 19 Jan 2017 1:35 pm



Michael Fine has been jailed (Picture: Fox8 Cleveland)

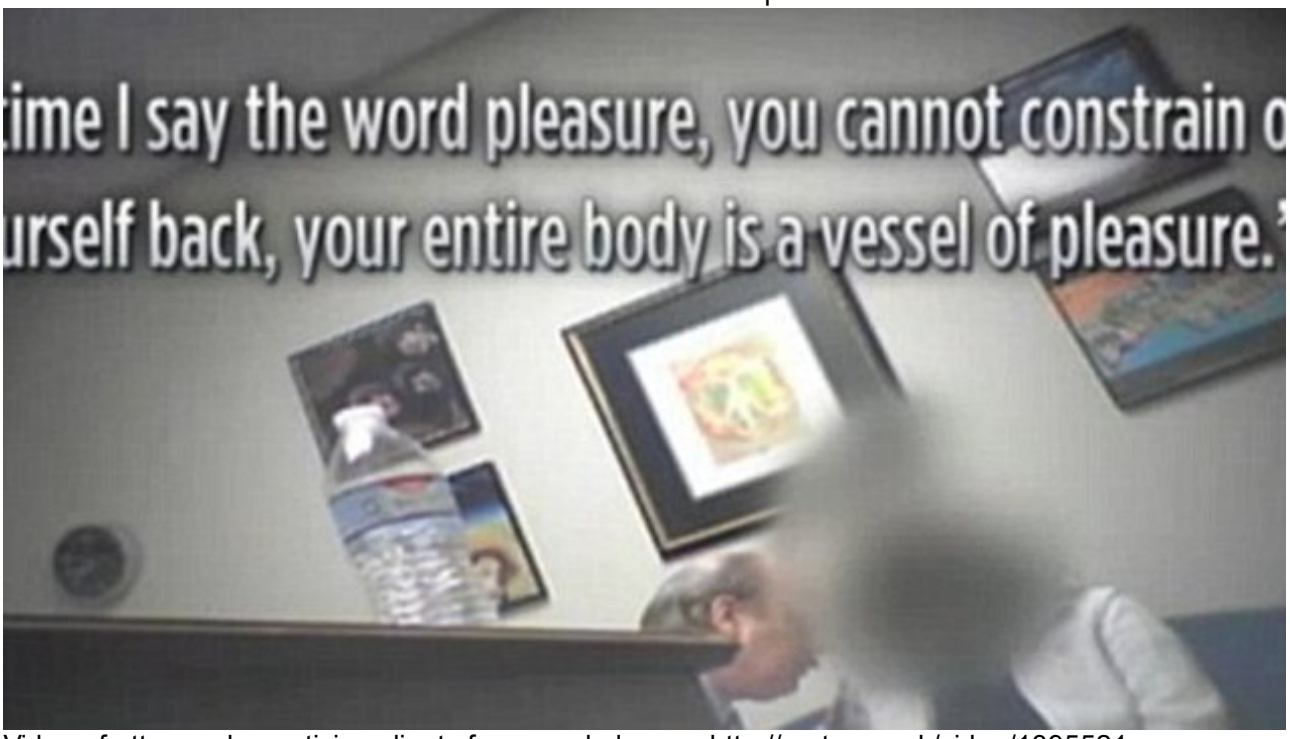
Michael Fine has been jailed (Picture: Fox8 Cleveland)

A lawyer who tried to hypnotise a female client in order the sexually assault her has been jailed.

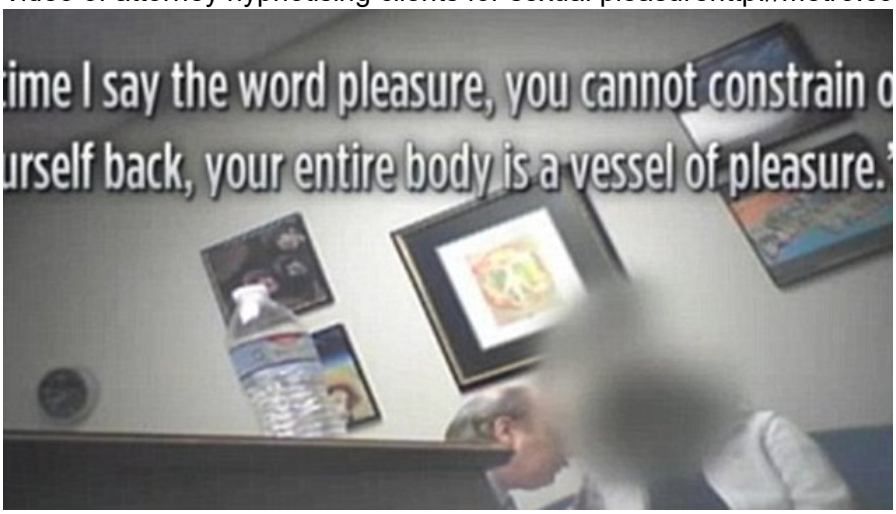
Disturbing footage, filmed on the victim's bodycam, caught divorce attorney Michael Fine using hypnosis techniques to take advantage on her.

The recording captured Fine saying: 'Let's take a deep breath… one more time. Ok, I gotta calm down, let's do this together.

Video of attorney hypnotising clients for sexual pleasure



Video of attorney hypnotising clients for sexual pleasurehttp://metro.co.uk/video/1395521



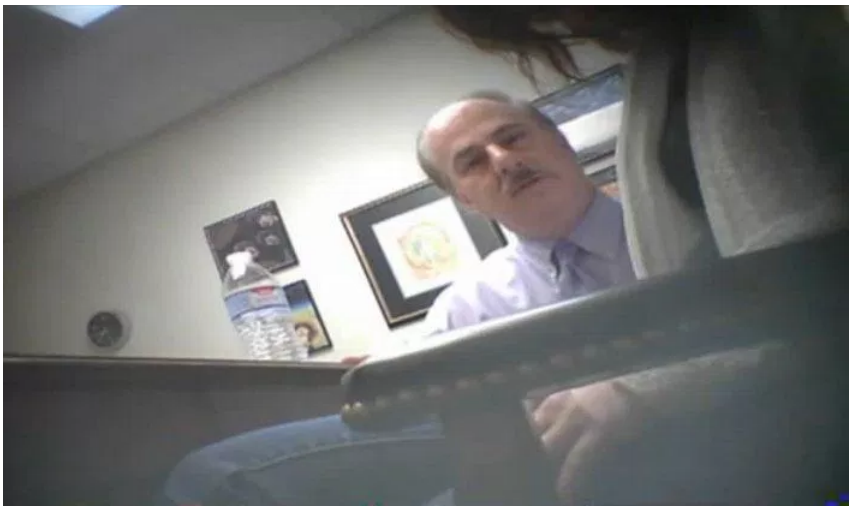
Lawyer caught hypnotising woman to sexually assault her on video (Picture: Fox8 Cleveland)

'Each time I say the word sleep, you're gonna go deeper and deeper, ten times deeper. One, two, three, sleep … one, two, three sleep.'

Then the session progressed to the couch, Fine's language became more sexual.

He said: 'Every time I say the word pleasure, you cannot constrain or hold

Lawyer caught hypnotizing woman to sexually assault her on video Michael Fine Picture: Fox8 Cleveland



Lawyer caught hypnotizing woman to sexually assault her on video Michael Fine Picture: Fox8 Cleveland

yourself back, your entire body is a vessel of pleasure.

‘When is the last time you made love?’

He pleaded guilty to subjecting five other women to the ordeal (Picture: Fox8 Cleveland)

He added: ‘Every time I touch you, it’s gonna be an incredible sensation, At the count of three, you won’t be able to control yourself.’

One of the victims said in court: ‘He used my trust and his position as my attorney to gain information about my vulnerabilities. He then used that information not only to protect and defend me, but also to manipulate, hurt and take advantage of me.’

In September 2016 Fine pleaded guilty to subjecting five other women to similar ordeals.

He’s now been sentenced to 12 years in jail and the court have released video of the police sting operation.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Live grenade found in box at central New York consignment shop

00:07 EST, 6 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

- **Grenade was found at Cool Stuff consignment shop in Westmoreland, New York**
- **The 1930s to 1940s device's safety pin, spoon and fuse appear intact**
- **Oneida County Sheriff says the grenade has been removed for detonation**

By Abigail Miller For Dailymail.com and Associated Press

Staff at a consignment shop made a potentially explosive discovery as they uncovered a live Second World War vintage hand grenade during an inventory.

The grenade was found Thursday as employees at Cool Stuff consignment shop in Westmoreland, New York, did inventory of a box of items from a building contents sale.

Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol says deputies were called to the shop to check out the grenade, which employees had taken to a safe location outside.

Sheriff Maciol says the grenade was believed to be a 1930s to 1940s vintage, and the safety pin, spoon and original fuse appear to be intact. The State Police Bomb Disposal Unit deemed the grenade to be live and removed it for detonation

A live Second World War vintage hand grenade was found in Cool Stuff consignment shop in Westmoreland, New York, as employees did inventory of a box of items from a building contents sale (file picture)

Sheriff Maciol says the grenade was found at the bottom of a bucket, and believed to be a 1930s to 1940s vintage.

The safety pin, spoon and original fuse appear to be intact.

The State Police Bomb Disposal Unit deemed the grenade to be live and removed it for detonation.

At no point was the item a danger to the public.

Comments (4)

Somm, Last Great Place, United States, about 7 hours ago

After my father died, a China Marine (WWII) vet, we found a hand grenade in a box in the basement...didn't know if it was disabled, because the pin appeared to still be in place. Sheriff's dept took it, later used it on their shooting range as small target practice. Funny what you find when someone passes :)

Ricky Michael, Fort Worth, United States, about 14 hours ago

No danger to the public??? Got to call BS on that.

perlcat, Omaha, United States, about 11 hours ago

Yeah, 70 year old explosives can be unstable. I'd have taken it out back and fired .308 rounds at it to make sure it was safe.

raven041, orlando, United States, about 7 hours ago

The fact you would try to carry unstable explosives then shoot large caliber rounds at it concerns me and is a public safety issue. I am a very big 2nd amendment supporter and you make us look bad.

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

LIVING DINOSAUR? Shocking 'sea monster' splashing into frozen ocean found on Google Earth

express.co.uk

LIVING DINOSAUR? Shocking 'sea monster' splashing into frozen ocean found on Google Earth

THERE have been various explanations put forward for the enormous form found breaking the surface of the Antarctic Ocean seen on Google Earth.

By Jon AustinJon Austin
PUBLISHED:09:27, Wed, Jun 15, 2016 | UPDATED: 10:48, Wed, Jun 15, 2016

GOOGLEEARTH

The strange form splashing through water on Google Earth.

They include the legendary Kraken sea monster, a survivor of the dinosaurs, or The Bloop, a mysterious undersea noise recorded in 1997.

The image was taken by Google on April 9 this year near Deception Island in the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica.

Discussion has raged on social media about what it could be, including suggestions it is a 60-metre long monster giant squid - when they only grow to around 14 metres, or possibly 20 metres, according to a recent scientific study.

One puzzled poster wrote: "No idea what this is but it's circulating a few places right now and when I saw it, it IMMEDIATELY made me think of a Plesiosaur fin."

The plesiosaur was an ocean-dwelling large dinosaur from around 200 million years ago, which many claim may still live and be the cause of the Loch Ness Monster mystery.

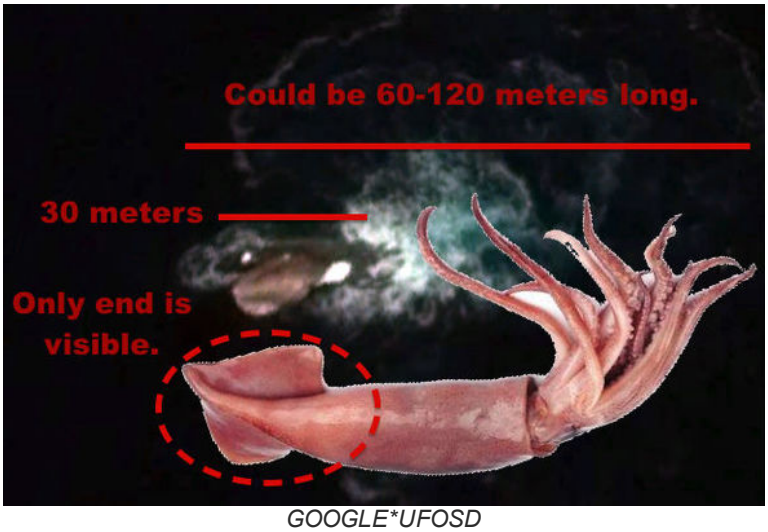
GOOGLEEARTH

The weird object in close-up.

Scott Waring's graphic compares the object to a monster squid.

He added: "Was hard to see from the images I was seeing so I went there on my own, to Google Earth.

"Here's what I found and how you get there. That's one massive disturbance in the ocean down there and who knows what really caused it. Maybe now we know the source of The Bloop!"



*GOOGLE*UFOSD*

In 1997, the Bloop was heard on hydrophones across the Pacific.

It was a loud, ultra-low frequency sound that was heard at listening stations underwater over 3,000 miles apart, and one of many mysterious noises picked up by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The plesiosaur - an ocean predator of 205 million years ago.

GETTY

Ancient drawing of the mythological, boat-destroying Kraken.

Here's what I found and how you get there. That's one massive disturbance in the ocean down there and who knows what really caused it. Maybe now we know the source of The Bloop!

Puzzled poster

There were theories at the time a sea monster could be responsible, and the actual cause was never conclusively proved.

*YouTube*UFOSD*

Scott C Waring, editor of UFO Sightings Daily, who also dabbles in myths and paranormal, wrote that it could be The Kraken - a legendary enormous octopus like monster that was bigger than ships.

He blogged: "This looks like the Kraken. I used Google ruler and it says this is 30 metres from head to end, but the end looks like just the mid area of a giant squid, which means it could be 60 meters long or more with tentacles.

"That sounds like a Kraken to me.

The real thing: A giant squid as they appear underwater.

GETTY

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Lottery scratch-off loser keeps phoning in threats, cops say

yahoo.com

AP MARK SCOLFORO
Associated PressJanuary 4, 2017

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A woman who repeatedly aired her frustration at failing to win a jackpot by making obscene and violent threats against Pennsylvania Lottery headquarters faces 53 charges, police said Wednesday.

Towanda Shields, 47, made dozens of calls over the past eight months to the agency's offices outside Harrisburg, police in Lower Swatara Township said.

"From the calls and stuff I've listened to, she's basically completely obsessed with the lottery and the fact that she doesn't win upsets her very much," Detective Robert Appleby said. "She would get really sexually explicit with her insults."

Appleby said that in late October, Shields said someone would die at the retail store where she buys tickets. He said she has also told lottery employees she had searched for them online, knew where they lived and had hired someone to hurt their family members.

Shields, of Philadelphia, has defended her right to make the calls on free-speech grounds, Appleby said. She does not appear to have a listed phone number.

"She basically taunted me the one time when I spoke to her as well — 'I switch phones. Y'all will never figure out where I am,'" Appleby said.

Although Shields has used anonymous burner phones, authorities were able to determine her identity.

"Honestly, had she not made some of the comments she made in the messages, it might have been a lot harder," he said.

Police on Tuesday filed 25 counts each of harassment and stalking, as well as three counts of making terroristic threats. She left 21 voicemails at lottery headquarters and reached people eight to 12 times, Appleby said.

"Fifty-three counts is a lot of counts, but I can assure you she's earned them," he said.

The detective said Shields' main interest is in scratch-off tickets.

At the end of some of her threatening calls, he said, she signed off with a lottery advertisement catchphrase: "Keep on scratchin'."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Madrid wants to put gardens on top of its buses

thelocal.es

20 December 2016
12:25 CET+01:00

Fiona Govan
20 December 2016
12:25 CET+01:00

Madrid's City Hall has unveiled plans to boost its green credentials and plant gardens on the rooftops of its buses and bus stops.

The unusual plan to tackle pollution and reduce C02 emissions will see portable gardens planted on the top of buses and bus stops across the city. Each garden will cost around €2,500 - less for the bus stops - and will involve special irrigation systems to avoid leakage.

"Each garden will be formed of metallic meshes and sustainable materials that can withstand movement and not leak water," explained project manager José Antonio Antona.

"The idea is for them to soak up noise, heat and pollution," he added.

"Muévete en verde" was chosen as one of six innovative projects to improve the city from 800 entries and will start with a pilot project on the number 27 and 34 bus routes.

"These routes crisscross the busiest zones of the city from north to south and saw 17 million people use them this last year," said the organisers unveiling the project on Monday.

Manuela Carmena, the left-wing mayor elected in May 2015, said she was absolutely behind the plan.

It is the latest in a series of measures introduced by the new administration to boost the city's environmental policies. Earlier this month City Hall imposed restrictions on traffic on the bustling Gran Via in the run up to Christmas.

Carmena has also overseen a citywide project to increase allotments in abandoned urban plots.

Gardens have been grown on buses by PhytoKinetic, a company operating in Barcelona, Girona and Palma de Mallorca.

The Local Europe AB
Östgötagatan 12
116 25 Stockholm
Sweden

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man armed with knife demands $2 in gas, then flees

yahoo.com

News Home

Associated PressDecember 28, 2016

PENNSVILLE, N.J. (AP) — Police are searching for a man who tried to hold up a New Jersey gas station for $2 worth of gasoline but fled after the attendant refused.

NJ.com reports (http://bit.ly/2i67RNa) the attempted robbery occurred Tuesday night at the Coastal Gas Station in Pennsville Township.

Police Chief Allen Cummings says the suspect was carrying a gas can when he first approached the attendant outside the station. The man pulled out a knife and demanded $2 in gasoline.

When the attendant denied the request, the suspect ran off.

Police are reviewing surveillance video from the station in an effort to identify the suspect.

___

Information from: NJ.com, http://www.nj.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man bun helps neighbors identify car vandalizing suspect

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 12, 2017

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Police say a man bun helped people in one Pittsburgh neighborhood identify the man who was vandalizing their cars.

WTAE-TV (http://bit.ly/2jbbm67) reports that 22-year-old Isaac Gettleman is facing 36 counts of criminal mischief.

Police say various surveillance cameras captured images of a man wearing his hair in a bun while kicking the sides of cars and jumping on their side-view mirrors on the city's South Side.

Gettleman lives in the same neighborhood, which led fellow resident Erin Catalina to wonder, "What motivates someone to do that, I have no idea." She was referring to the vandalism, not Gettleman's hair style.

Online court records don't list an attorney for Gettleman. The Associated Press couldn't immediately find a listed phone number for him.

He faces a preliminary hearing Jan. 18.

___

Information from: WTAE-TV, http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man dressed as beer bottle wanted for alleged pizza theft

barryanddistrictnews.co.uk

Barry&DistrictNews

A MAN dressed as a beer bottle is being sought by police after allegedly stealing two pizzas without paying.

Police are looking to identify the reveller who was caught on CCTV at Papa Johns in Holton Road, Barry on New Year's Day.

He is said to have entered a staff-only area and helped himself to the pizzas and left without paying.

Anyone who recognises him should call 101, quoting reference 1700001089.

- ©Copyright 2001-2017

This site is part of Newsquest's audited local newspaper network | A Gannett Company

Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. HP10 9TY|1350|Registered in England & Wales

This website and associated newspapers adhere to the Independent Press Standards Organisation's Editors' Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about the editorial content which relates to inaccuracy or intrusion, then please contact the editor here. If you are dissatisfied with the response provided you can contact IPSO here

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man finds possible mammoth penis on beach in Norfolk

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukMonday 2 Jan 2017 10:15 am

The rock resembling a penis which Robert Mee found on the beach at Hunstanton, Norfolk (Picture: SWNS)

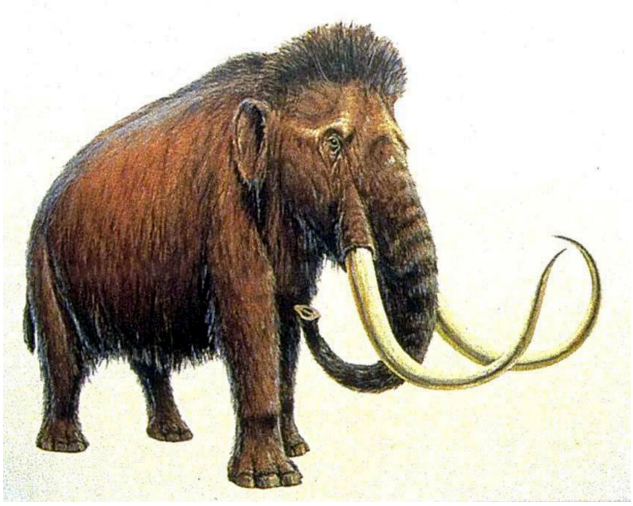
A fossil hunter believes he may have found the fossil of a mammoth penis that is 700,000 years old.

It is just six centimetres long, but it is particularly phallic and was found at Hunstanton, Norfolk, on the same stretch of coastline where the skeleton of the West Runton mammoth was discovered 27 years ago.

Robert Mee made the surprising discovery in Hunstanton, Norfolk – just 30 miles from where Ice age mammoth, often referred to as an elephant, last walked.

It measures just 6cm so is more likely to be a pre-historic poo – or just a stone (Picture: Masons)

A



mammoth is actually more likely to have had a 6ft penis (unless those glorious tusks are just compensating for something) (Picture: Masons)

Robert later shared his find on Facebook appealing for help in identifying it, but received an interesting response.

Niall Thorogood, who found a baby mammoth tooth on West Runton Beach in April, commented: ‘Odd shape.’

Richard Rockett said: ‘It looks like a fossilised phallus.’

Alison Cramp added: ‘Elephant penis?’

It was found on the same stretch of coastline as the West Runton mammoth (Picture: Masons)
A cross section of the fossil (Picture: Masons)

It is believed the male West Runton mammoth stood four metres tall at the shoulder and weighed 10 tonnes – twice the weight of the modern African elephant.

Some experts have dismissed the find as a trace fossil, such as faeces left behind by animals, rather than the preserved remains of the body of the actual animal itself.

The closest relative to the mammoth, an elephant, has a 6ft penis, not 6cm.

However, over the past 27 years north Norfolk's eroding coastline has yielded up scores of prehistoric treasures including the oldest human footprints found outside Africa, and the most complete skeleton of a mammoth anywhere in the world.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man Hammers 38 Nails With His Skull In Pursuit Of World Record

huffingtonpost.com

His skull is more than twice as thick as the average human's — and probably three times as numb.

02/10/2017 07:54 pm ET
David Moye Reporter, The Huffington Post

A Boston-area man wanted a world record and, by gosh, he nailed it — by pounding 38 nails into a board with his skull in under two minutes.

"Hammer Head" John Ferraro smashed his way to the record earlier this week on the Guinness World Records Italian Show, a weekly YouTube series.

It's not the first hit for the "Hammer Head," who also holds the one-minute record (13 nails) and the world record for "Most concrete blocks broken on the head with a bowling ball in three minutes (male). Ferraro broke 45 blocks in that timeframe back in April 2011.

Take a look at a man who truly has a numb skull through the magic of GIFs.

Scratching your head at how Ferraro is able to do that? His skull is more than twice as thick as the average human's — 16 millimeters in thickness compared to an average of 6.5, according to the Daily Mail.

Ferraro discovered he was thickheaded when he was a kid and went head-first through a wooden door while chasing his brother, according to Guinness.

When Ferraro isn't banging his head against nails for glory, he works as a professional wrestler under the name "Gino Martino."

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man injured after trash blows up in Gothenburg

thelocal.se

http://www.thelocal.se/20170105/man-injured-after-trash-blows-up-in-gothenburg

The trash container where the explosion took place. Photo: Thomas Johansson/TT

TT/The Local
5 January 2017
17:37 CET+01:00

A man has been taken to hospital with injuries in his legs following an explosion in Gothenburg.

A man has been taken to hospital with injuries in his legs following an explosion in Gothenburg.

The incident took place at around 3.30pm on Thursday in the Frölunda area of the city, when a lone man was injured after a garbage container exploded. According to police, the man told them the blast occurred when he threw waste into the container.

“The man was alone when the explosion occurred. We spoke with him and according to him he was throwing out two rubbish bags when one of the bags banged,” police spokesperson Christer Fuxborg told Swedish newspaper Göteborgs Posten.

The man is said to be in stable condition and conscious, but with serious injuries in his legs.

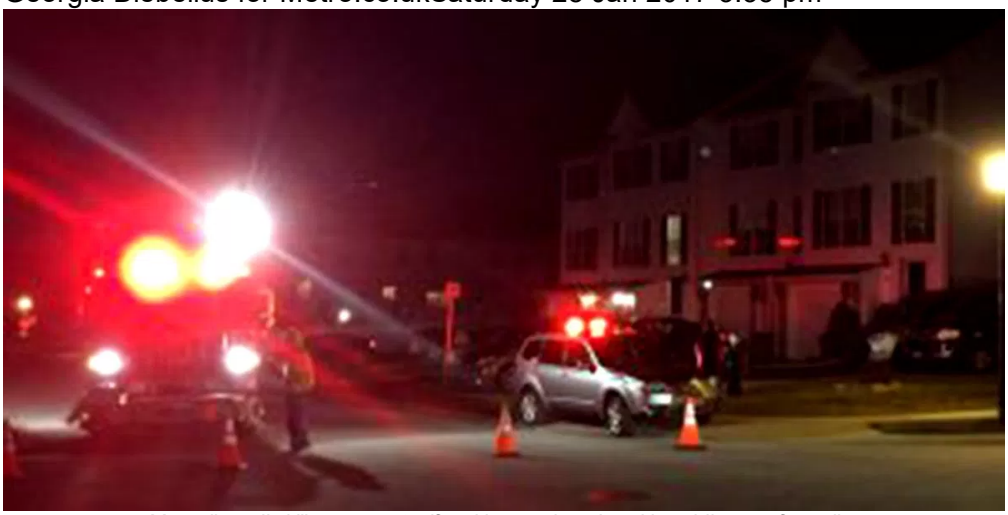
Police have started a preliminary investigation of devastation endangering the public and have cordoned off the area around the container to carry out a technical investigation. They currently do not have a clear idea of what exploded, but are looking into whether a bomb dog is available to bring to the scene.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man 'wielding sword killed pregnant wife and unborn child'

metro.co.uk

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.ukSaturday 28 Jan 2017 3:35 pm



Man allegedly kills pregnant wife with sword, waits with toddler son for police

Police rushed to the scene (Picture: WTVR)

A man is accused of murdering his pregnant wife with a sword, before calling police to report himself.

Northern York County Regional Police rushed to the scene in Jackson, New Jersey, at around 4pm yesterday after being called by husband John Ziegler III, 35, reporting a domestic incident involving an edged weapon.

He allegedly told the operator that he had struck his wife, 25, with a scimitar-style sword – killing her and their unborn baby.

However, added that he would be waiting with his two-year-old son for the police at the scene.

Officers discovered Zeigler's wife on the rear deck of the home.

a scimitar sword Man allegedly kills pregnant wife with sword, waits with toddler son for police getty images

He allegedly used a scimitar sword (Picture: Getty)

She was pronounced dead at the scene, as was her unborn baby.

According to WTVR, a curved sword was reportedly discovered beside her body.

Zeigler surrendered peacefully as soon as officers arrived.

His toddler was uninjured and taken into the custody of York County Children, Youth, and Families.

The 35-year-old has been held in custody charged with murder and murder of an unborn child.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man lucky to be alive after accidentally firing nail gun into head

STILLWATER, Minn. (KMSP)

fox9.com

FOX

He's perhaps the luckiest and, unluckiest man in the world. A Stillwater homebuilder missed death by just millimeters after a nail from a nail gun ricocheted, and sent a spike right into his head.
By: Paul Blume

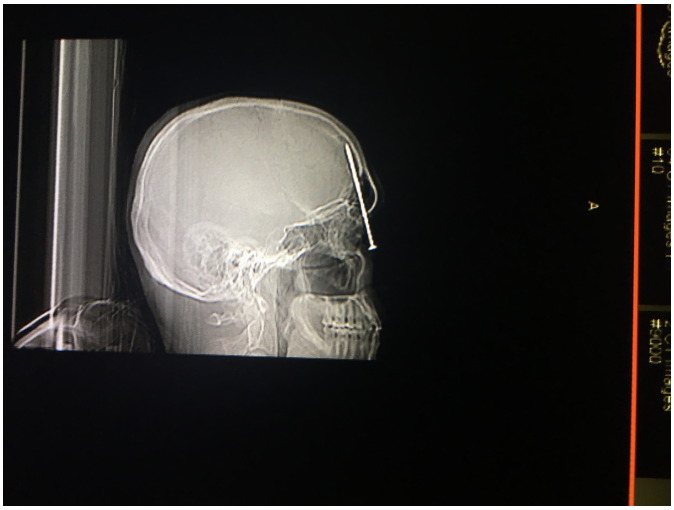
Posted: Dec 22 2016 06:58PM CST

Updated: Dec 24 2016 08:29AM CST

- A Stillwater, Minnesota home builder missed death by just millimeters after a nail from a nail gun ricocheted and sent a spike right into his head.

Nick Thompson is bandaged and in a ton of pain, but given what he survived, he knows he is one lucky guy.

"This was the most freak thing that could have happened that I didn't die from," said Thompson. "I don't know what else to say other than that."



A Stillwater homebuilder Nick Thompson missed death by just millimeters after a nail from a nail gun ricocheted and sent a spike right into his head.

Thompson, an experienced home builder, and his friend Frankie Peterson were framing a closet when something went horribly wrong.

Thompson had a pneumatic nail gun above his head. He figures he hit a nail already in the wood when the gun kicked back right into his face, which drove the next nail two inches deep into his skull.

"I didn't even know I had a nail in my eye until we got to the hospital and then sitting in the chair, I was like 'Take a picture. Take a picture.' I moved my hand. I still didn't think there was a nail in my eye at all," he said.

Thompson was rushed into emergency surgery at Regions Hospital Monday evening, where doctors surgically maneuvered the front of his skull to remove the nail.

He now has the nail as a reminder of just how fortunate he is.

"One more millimeter and it was a lobotomy," said Thompson. "One more millimeter and it was poke my eye out. One more millimeter this way and I was dead. There are so many things that could've gone wrong. I don't know how everything went right."

"It still hasn't processed," said Peterson. "I don't think many people see that … the freakiest of freak accidents. It's hopefully something I never have to see again."

Miraculously, Thompson has his eyesight, his brain is functioning as it should and he is expected to make a full recovery. Though there are some concerns about possible infection.

"It's kind of given me perspective," said Thompson. "A few days before Christmas - I got two kids. There are important things in life."

© 2000-2015 Fox Television Stations, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Firefighters rescue man trapped inside telephone pole

upi.com

By Ben Hooper | Updated Jan. 20, 2017 at 3:44 PM

A firefighter in China crawls into the bottom of a utility pole to rescue a man trapped inside. Screenshot: Newsflare

Jan. 20 (UPI) -- A crew of Chinese firefighters were filmed sawing through a utility pole to free a man who somehow became trapped inside the pole.

The video shows firefighters in Qingyang, Gansu Province, carefully placing the pole horizontally on the ground Saturday and sawing through it.

The firefighters are able to remove enough from the pole to extract a man trapped inside.

It was unclear how or why the man ended up inside the pole.

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

bangordailynews.com

BDN BLOGS

January 5, 2017
By Aislinn Sarnacki

Hank Van Weelden of Edmonton, Alberta, arrived home safely on Jan. 2, after a multi-day solo bike ride in Antarctica on a bike designed by Carver Bikes of Woolwich, Maine. Originally, Weelden planned for a much longer trip, but about six days into the ride, he decided to turn around, citing multiple reasons.

Courtesy of the Van Weeldens

"There was some physical, some mental, some gear and some external factors that have all contributed to my decision to stop and turn around and come home," Van Weelden said in a check-in by satellite phone on Dec. 25. "I got what I wanted out of this trip."

The CEO of a remote-housing manufacturer and an experienced endurance cyclist, Van Weelden originally set out to bike from the South Pole more than 700 miles to the Hercules Inlet, a trip that he predicted would take him about 30 days to complete.

There is no record of a person ever biking solo from the South Pole to the coast of Antarctica. But from the beginning of the trip, Van Weelden made it clear that his goal wasn't to set a record. In fact, he was considering an alternative route, one that would not have allowed for any record-setting, prior to starting his journey on Dec. 19.

In short, Van Weelden was there for an epic experience.

Courtesy of the Van Weeldens

"Antarctica was a dream of mine," Van Weelden said in the Dec. 25 message, "to come see this wonderful place and to understand what it's like, what it was like to explore here, what it was like for Shackleton, and Scott and Atkinson, and for all the other ground explorers. And i got of taste of it — I got a taste, and I got my ass kicked by it, and that was part of the experience. I wanted to push myself, I wanted to take a big risk, and I did."

Van Weelden's family posted these phone updates on the "Hank's Antarctic Adventure" Facebook page, www.facebook.com/hankadventure/. And now that Van Weelden is back home, he is adding videos and photos from the adventure to the page.

"I don't need to get any record, I don't need to do any coast to pole or vice versa," Van Weelden said in the message. "I can use those next 26 days to go for coffee with my wife, or talk to a friend, or hold hands with my daughter as we walk through the river valley, or hang out with my sons, or go skiing with them. There's so many things in life to do and I did this, and I lived, but this is done and it's time to move on. Antarctica is a beautiful and challenging place."

In the message, Van Weelden said that he didn't seek sponsors or media attention for his ride because he wanted the freedom to quit at any time. Like any outdoor adventurer, Van Weelden had to weigh the risks and the rewards. And in a place as wild, remote and harsh as Antarctica, the risks are high.

The messages Van Weelden shared during his adventure were heartfelt, entertaining and educational. They are also humbling. Though his ride didn't last as long as he'd hoped, it was absolutely a grand adventure, and one he survived to tell to his children.

"If there are people who think that I failed, well, you're welcome to that opinion," Van Weelden said. "I lived. I took a chance. I wanted to explore, and I did just that. And if someone wants to call that a failure, that's there opinion. I want to squeeze every little bit out of this life, and I just did."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man who walked into India by mistake allowed to return home after 50 years

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.ukSunday 12 Feb 2017 11:24 am

Wang Qi arrives at Xi'an Xianyang International Airport to return to his hometown after 50 years (Picture: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

A Chinese man who wandered into India by mistake 50 years ago and then was never allowed to leave has finally been allowed to return home.

Wang Qi was building roads for the Chinese Army in 1963 when he accidentally crossed the Indian border and was arrested.

He was released from jail in 1969 but as he had no paperwork was not allowed to leave the country and was forced to live in a village, called Tirodi, in central India instead, according to the BBC.

There he worked in a flour mill and married a local woman, raising a family, but was not provided with the necessary paperwork to leave.

But his case was made public and he was visited by Chinese diplomats who promised to take him back.

Wang was caught entering the Indian Territory shortly after the Sino-India War of 1962 (Picture: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

With the joint effort of Indian and Chinese governments, Wang returned to his hometown during the Chinese lantern Festival. (Picture: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

He boarded the flight home with his adult children (Picture: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

He has since been given a document by the Indian Foreign Ministry saying he is cleared to leave and his family have all been issued Indian passports.

He flew out of Delhi on Friday night with his adult children and eventually landed in his home city of Xianyang where he was greeted by banners reading 'welcome home, soldier, it's been a rough journey'.

Beforehand, Chinese officials took him shopping in a Delhi mall before he boarded his flight.

The army surveyor was never granted Indian citizenship but was given a Chinese passport in 2013.

Talking about the about the moment he was captured, he said: ‘I had gone out of my camp for a stroll but lost my way. I was tired and hungry. I saw a Red Cross vehicle and asked them to help me.

‘They handed me over to the Indian army.’

He was forced to live in a village in central India (Picture: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

(Picture:VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man viciously bites woman's ear in unprovoked attack

metro.co.uk

Jimmy Nsubuga for Metro.co.ukTuesday 3 Jan 2017 10:53 pm

The suspect laughed after biting the woman (Picture: Police)

Man viciously bites woman's ear in unprovoked attack

This was the moment a man viciously bit a woman's ear in a taxi booking office.

Police are now hunting the suspect and hope the shocking CCTV video from inside Bluestar Taxis in Wigan will help find him.

The footage showed the man walking up to the 21-year-old victim and then grabbing and biting her before he left.

The woman suffered minor injuries as a result of the attack that happened on November 29, at around 7.10pm.

Man wanted after biting woman in Wigan cab office assault

'This was an unprovoked attack on an innocent woman,' said Detective Constable Mark Swindlehurst, from Greater Manchester Police.

'We have been carrying out extensive inquiries and now have CCTV footage of a man we are keen to speak to.

'If you recognise the man in the CCTV, I would urge you to get in touch with police as soon as possible.'

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 quoting incident number 2284 of 29/11/16, or independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

The incident happened in November (Picture: Police)

The incident happened in November (Picture: Police)

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div*

div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Man with bionic penis 'offered up to £800,000' to star in a porn film

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.ukSunday 29 Jan 2017 9:40 pm

Mohammed Abad has been offered a porn deal after his bionic penis operation (Picture: Barcroft)

A man, who was fitted with a £70,000 bionic penis after losing his in a childhood accident, has been offered to star in his own porn film.

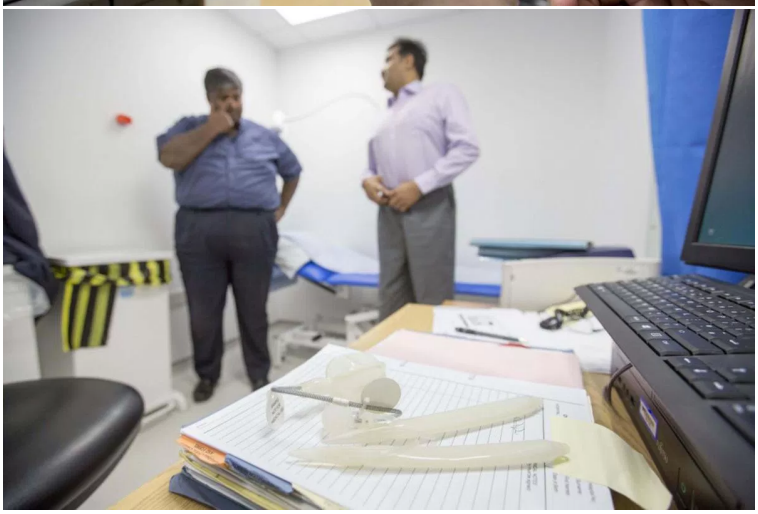
Mohammed Abad, from Edinburgh, has been inundated with offers of sex since his replacement penis was fitted by the NHS.

The 44-year-old lost his virginity last April after being fitted with the prosthetic but has since said he is too tired for sex due to his long shifts as a security guard.

But Colin Rae, a producer at Bangbros, one of the world's biggest production companies, told the Daily Star he may be able to earn some significant money in the porn industry instead.

He said: 'We at Bangbros are very intrigued about the guy with the bionic penis.

The 44-year-old lost his virginity last year some four years after the penis was fitted (Picture: Barcroft)



He is hoping to secure marriage to a second wife (Picture: Barcroft)

'His package is unique. It could be a $10,000 deal, $25,000 deal or it could be a million dollar deal with the right talent.

'Bangbros is very excited to entertain the possibility of him working with us on a variety of different projects. Don't be scared, don't be shy, and rock out with your c***.'

Mohammed, who has so far declined to comment on the story, lost his virginity after sex worker Charlotte Rose waived her fee to have sex with him.

His bionic penis becomes erect when he presses a button in his testicles and it fills with liquid stored in his stomach.

He also revealed his parents were currently looking for a second wife for him and he was looking forward to consummating the marriage this time round.

His first wife apparently left him because he couldn’t have children.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man With Car Sex Fetish Allegedly Steals 4 Cars For Joy Ride

huffingtonpost.com

Saginaw County Jail

He's auto control!

A Michigan man awaiting trial on charges that he used a county-owned vehicle for sexual gratification has now been accused of stealing four cars for a joy ride. Police don't believe he sexually gratified himself in the more recent incident.

Jordan Haskins, of Saginaw, was jailed on Valentine's Day on seven felony charges related to a Feb. 6 incident where he allegedly took the cars from an auto dealership in Thomson Township on some wild rides.

"This person took some vehicles from the body shop and drove around the back lot area, damaging the vehicles and jumping over hills," Thomas Township Police Sgt. Al Fong told MLive.com. "It was a joy ride."

Haskins has been charged with five counts of unlawfully driving away an automobile, one count malicious destruction of property and one count breaking and entering into a building with intent to commit theft. He is being held in the Saginaw County Jail on $40,000 bond.

Haskins was already facing charges in relation to a November incident that was slightly kinkier.

Investigators said the 26-year-old Haskins stole a county-owned vehicle and damaged it in order to engage in a sexual fetish called "cranking."

Haskins allegedly told police he likes to pull spark plug wires from cars to make the vehicle run rough, and says the sound helps him climax, according to MLive.

He was also arrested twice in 2010 for allegedly breaking into the Saginaw County Mosquito Control to masturbate inside cars, and once in 2011 for breaking into a brake shop in a similar incident.

Sexologist Susan Block, Ph.D. told the Independent in an unrelated article that "[t]he 'vroom' of the engine reminds [men] of their own libidos being revved up by this hot woman."

Haskins' particular kink became a public issue in 2014 when he ran for the Michigan State Legislature as a Republican. He was not elected, but told reporters during the campaign he was trying to learn from his mistakes.

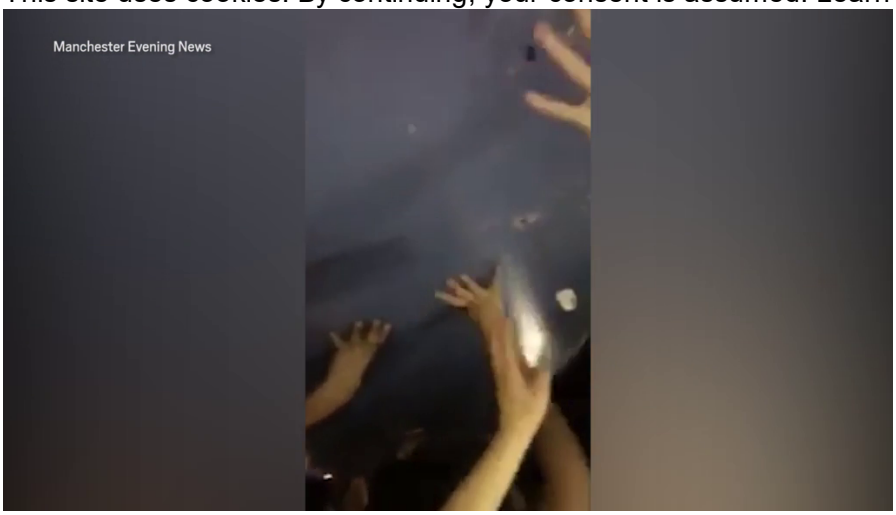
His other political activity has included speaking out against an anti-LGBT-discrimination bill presented by the Saginaw City Council. In 2014, he characterized himself on Facebook as "lead the effort to fend off the homosexual movement."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Students forced to hold up club's ceiling after it collapses on top of them

metro.co.uk

This site uses cookies. By continuing, your consent is assumed. Learn more



Students hold up the Factory's ceiling after it collapses on them (Pictures: Screengrab/MEN)

Students in Manchester were forced to literally raise the roof last night when the ceiling of a club collapsed on top of them.

Footage showed people inside the club holding the ceiling up while others photographed the bizarre moment that occurred early Sunday morning.

Dancers were caught on video screaming when ceiling literally fell down scattering glass and dust into people's eyes.

Tom Foster, 20, was at the club said: 'We were all dancing and we just suddenly had this wooden ceiling panel fall on our heads.

'As soon as the ceiling went all the lights smashed and fell on everyone, there was crying and screaming, we were just standing there holding it up, with half the room in darkness.

'It took about two minutes for the DJ to stop, then bouncers rushed in, but there was no plan.

'I was surprised there was no announcement, I would have thought there would be in a situation like to help people calm, when half the room is holding up the ceiling of a very old building.

'I got glass and dust in my eyes, luckily we hadn't had too much to drink.'

The scary incident is actually the second time the club has battled a falling ceiling.

Salford-student Liam Shaw told student paper The Tab: 'I felt this rubble fall on my head, not heavy at all, and it went in my eyes, then I saw that people were holding the roof up with their hands and got out of the room as soon as possible.

'I wasn't hurt and I don't think anyone else was either but security rushed into the 1st floor to try and fix the problem. It was crazy – no one acted scared as such, but it was a bit unnerving definitely.'

A spokesperson told MEN: 'A section of plasterboard came loose from the first floor. The same section that came loose on this exact weekend two years ago.

'At this stage we are uncertain how or why – no one was hurt and the club was evacuated purely as a precaution – there is no structural issue.'

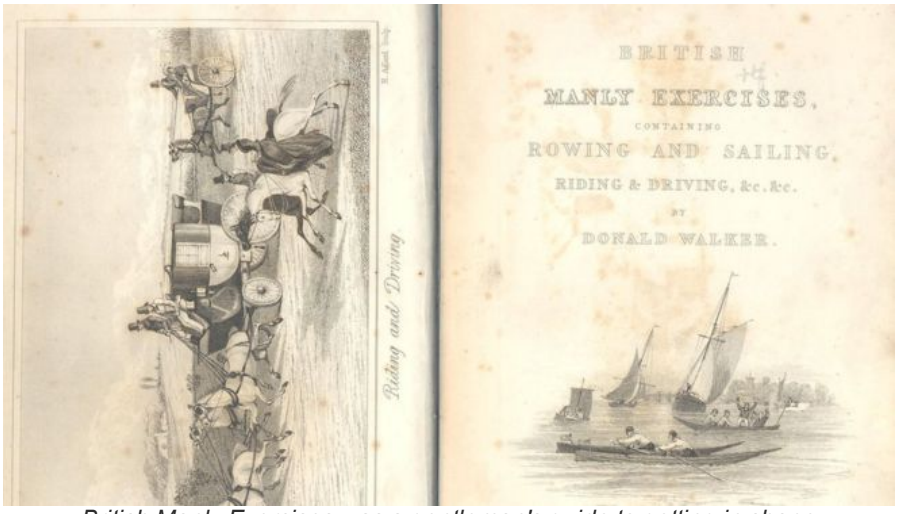
Club bosses promised students that the ground and second floors would be open by Monday.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Manly exercise' manual found at Cambridge college - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC • 30 December 2016



British Manly Exercises was a gentleman's guide to getting in shape

A 19th Century manual of "Manly Exercises" found in a college's archive shows a surprisingly "forward-thinking" attitude, researchers have said.

The British Manly Exercises guide was written by Donald Walker in 1834.

It urges gentlemen to move for up to 24 miles a day, and to opt for a diet of lean meat, stale bread, and biscuits.

A spokesman for St John's college, Cambridge, said it echoed health concerns which would be shared by a modern audience.

"Even in the 1830s, there was plenty of discussion about obesity, fad dieting, the relationship between exercise and mental wellbeing, and the fact that technology might be making us all a bit lazier," he said.

The book is understood to have been aimed at wealthy readers who lived sedentary lifestyles - as opposed to members of the working classes who often toiled away doing back-breaking labour.

It tells readers exercise has the potential to "prolong life and improve its happiness" and can combat and prevent ailments.

However, some of the advice contained within - such as the instruction to drink half a pint of wine after dinner - is not echoed by 21st Century health experts.

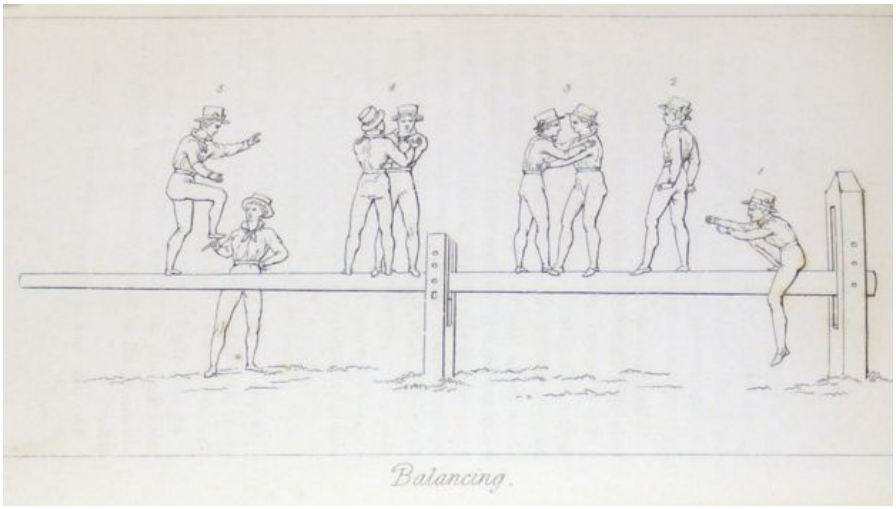
Image caption

Image copyright Cambridge University
Image caption
Image copyright Cambridge University
Image caption

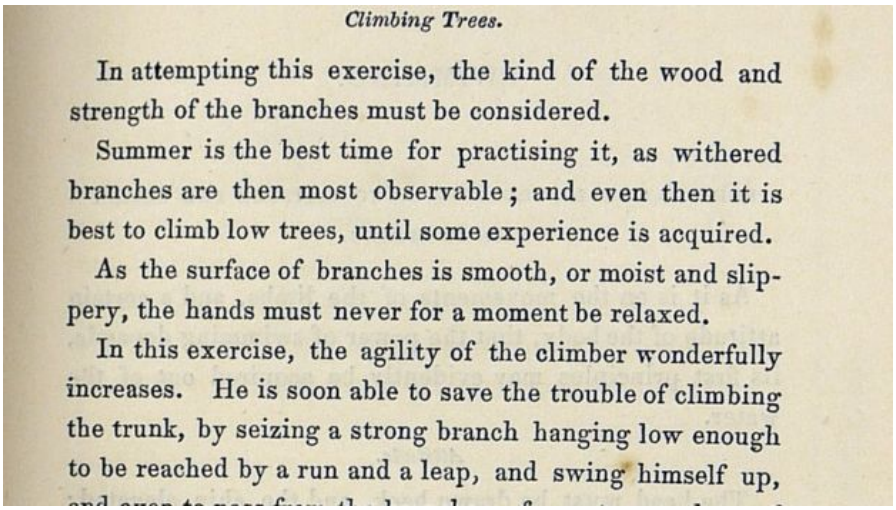
The book has been kept in the college's special collections, which can be viewed by appointment.

Copyright © 2016 BBC.

The guide gives instructions on a range of physical activities deemed suitable for young gentlemen, from leaping and vaulting to skating and wrestling.



Each chapter starts with a definition - balancing "is the art of preserving the stability of the body upon a narrow or moving surface"



Climbing Trees.

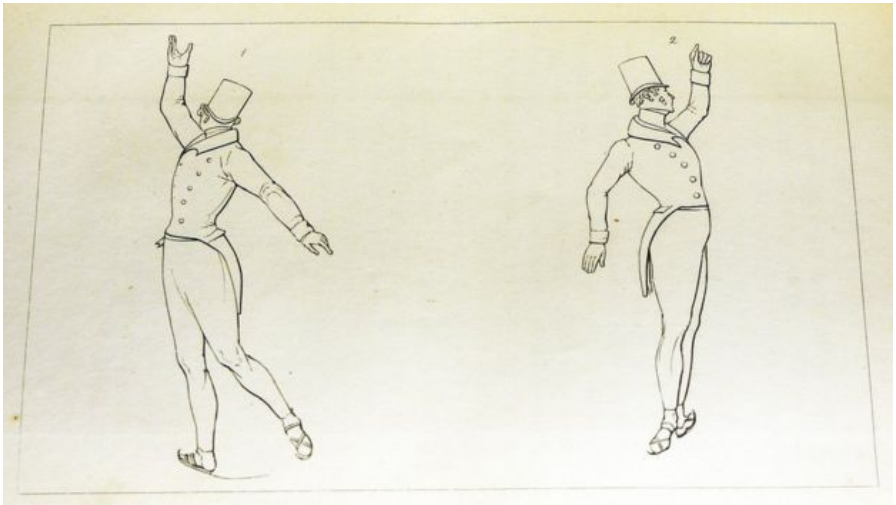
In attempting this exercise, the kind of the wood and strength of the branches must be considered.

Summer is the best time for practising it, as withered branches are then most observable; and even then it is best to climb low trees, until some experience is acquired.

As the surface of branches is smooth, or moist and slippery, the hands must never for a moment be relaxed.

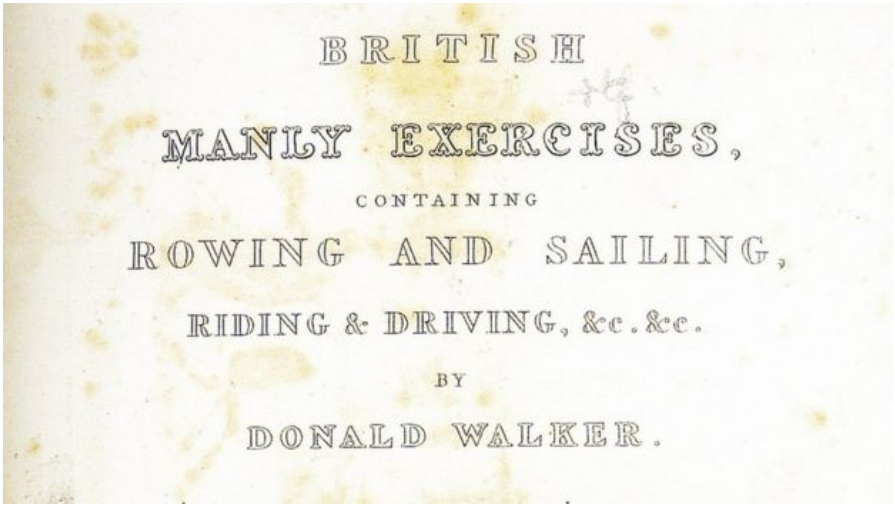
In this exercise, the agility of the climber wonderfully increases. He is soon able to save the trouble of climbing the trunk, by seizing a strong branch hanging low enough to be reached by a run and a leap, and swing himself up,

Climbing is "the art of transporting the body in any direction, by the aid, in general, both of the hands and feet"



As part of the regime a gentleman "must gradually increase his level of exercise to 20 to 24 miles of walking and running a day"

Mr Walker recommended that "no exertion should be carried to excess, as that only exhausts and enfeebles the body"



The book claimed to be the first to describe the procedures of rowing and sailing as exercise

Image copyright Cambridge University

Marijuana Sasquatch Crashes Meteorologist's Live Report

huffingtonpost.com

We're forecasting HIGH winds.

02/10/2017 04:16 pm ET
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post

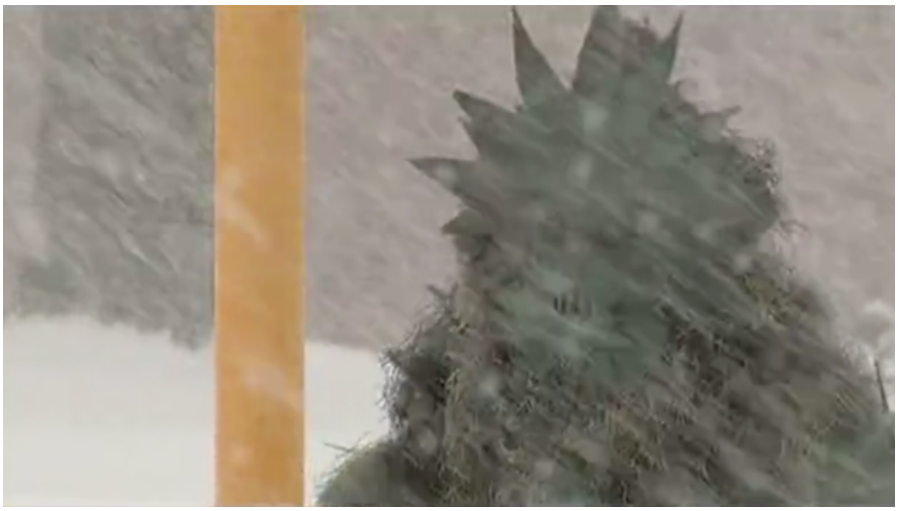
A pot shop owner in Springfield, Massachusetts, is getting a big hit of viral buzz after dressing up as a marijuana Sasquatch and crashing a live TV weather report.

Dave Mech runs Potco, a gardening supply store catering to cannabis cultivators. One of his promotional tools is a costumed character named "Potsquatch," a bud-loving Bigfoot-type creature with marijuana leaves all over him.

When Mech saw WWLP meteorologist Jennifer Pagliei setting up for a live weather report on Thursday, he decided to smoke up some publicity by walking in the background.

"I was in my store waiting for some people from New York and I saw them setting up," Mech told The Huffington Post. "I saw the bushes behind them and it was just too perfect."

That's a matter of opinion since Potsquatch managed to fall twice during his brief brush with TV fame.



WWLP

Mech is happy with the results though.

"At one point, I had 1,000 hits on the video and thought, 'Cool,'" Mech said. "I came back and it was at half a million."

And, remember, hits of any kind are appreciated by a pot enthusiast.

It remains to be seen if Potsquatch's glory is fleeting, but Mech is considering rushing a line of T-shirts to market.

Meanwhile, Boston Globe writer Steve Annear joked that as long as Potsquatch is only covered in one ounce of marijuana, there should be no problem with police.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Mars investigating spilled Skittles headed for cattle feed

yahoo.com

AP NEW YORK (AP) — A mysterious Skittles spill on a rural highway in Wisconsin is taking another twist, with Mars Inc. saying it doesn't know why the discarded candy was about to be used as cattle feed.

The case began when a Wisconsin sheriff posted on Facebook this week that "hundreds of thousands of Skittles" had been found spilled on a rural highway and it was unclear how they got there. Later, he updated the post to say the candy had fallen off the back of a truck on its way to be cattle feed.

Only red Skittles had spilled out, and Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schmidt joked in the post that it would be difficult to "Taste the Rainbow" in its entirety. The incident gained attention online after CNN wrote about it, citing a report from a local affiliate.

The use of a variety of food byproducts for animal feed is common, and Skittles maker Mars Inc. says it has procedures for discarding foods for that use. However, the company says the Skittles in question came from a factory that doesn't sell unused products for animal feed.

"We don't know how it ended up as it did and we are investigating," Mars said.

Company spokeswoman Denise Young said the Skittles were supposed to be destroyed because a power outage prevented the signature "S" from being placed on the candies. She said Mars planned to contact the sheriff's office and the farmer to find out more.

Schmidt said the Skittles spilled from a box that started to disintegrate in the rain, and about half of them got out. The Skittles on the ground did not have the standard letter "S" on them, he said.

The sheriff said he has spoken to the farmer, but did not provide a name and said he did not have a contact number for him.

Josh Cribbs, a cattle nutritionist and director of commercial development for the American Maine-Anjou Association, which promotes a particular cattle breed, said that which food byproducts get used for cattle feed varies depending on what's available in the region and particular time of year. In places like Texas, for instance, Cribbs said citrus rinds are common.

Cribbs said a specific product would not be used alone, but be mixed with other ingredients to achieve a particular nutritional profile.

"You might think, 'Oh my gosh, they might be eating a Skittle.' In reality, that piece of candy is being broken down," he said.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

I went on a date set up by a matchmaking octopus because my life is a shambles metro.co.uk

Ellen Scott for Metro.co.ukSaturday 11 Feb 2017 1:00 pm

I went on a date set up by a matchmaking octopus because my life is a shambles

Behold: A magical matchmaking octopus. (Picture: Kraken)

Let me detail the wreckage of my dating life.

Since I broke up with my boyfriend two years ago, I have been on precisely one official date, in which I fainted in a McDonald's toilets and smacked my head on a door.

No, there was not a second date.

I am deeply, truly, embarrassingly single, likely because of my aversion to dating apps (all that swiping makes the tendonitis in my wrist flare up), my intense fear that if someone asks me out they're plotting my murder, and, of course, my *masses* of emotional baggage.

Basically, I'm an absolute delight and I have no idea why I'm not getting proposals on the daily. But I digress.

The true emblem of just how dire my dating life has become is not Colin the caterpillar getting married before me (although that does still sting a bit), but my colleagues' and friends' reactions to the arrival of a press release in their email inbox.

This press release declared that Kraken – you know, the spiced rum company – would be giving single people the chance to be set up by a matchmaking octopus in time for Valentine's Day.

Yes. A real, actual octopus.

(Picture: Kraken)

Meet Ken. He's alright. (Picture: Kraken)

The sad part is that I was forwarded that press release by four different people, who all said I should do it. Clearly, they have given up on me ever finding love like a normal person.

The sadder part is that I said that yes, I would let an octopus be responsible for my dating decisions. Because I am pathetic and make terrible life choices.

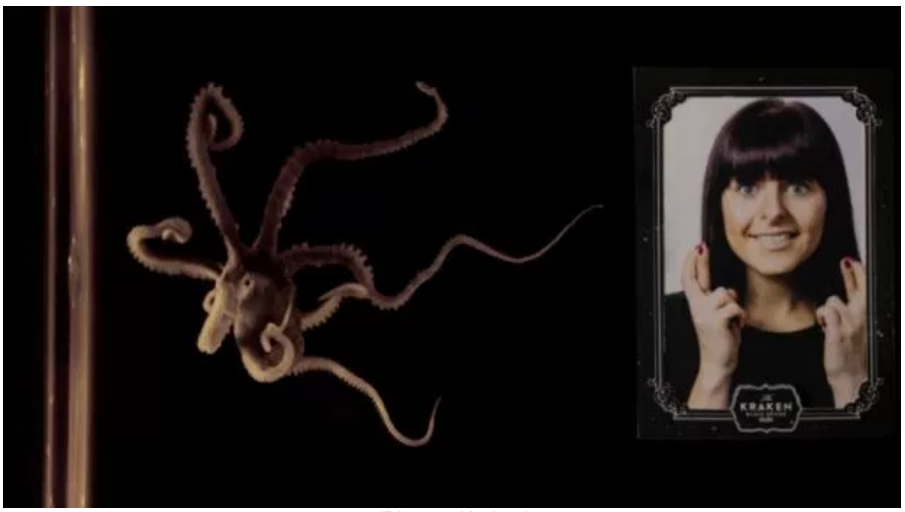
So that's how I ended up leaving work on a Friday night, heading to a nice bar, and meeting a blind date carefully selected by Ken, the mystical matchmaking octopus.

To be entirely honest, I didn't trust Ken one f***ing bit.

For one thing, he was not Paul, the late, great psychic octopus. He was much smaller than Paul. His name was Ken.

Does this look like an octopus that knows what he's doing? I don't think so. (Picture: Kraken)

But also, Ken had not been provided with any information about myself or my potential dates (read: other people who had willingly volunteered to be set up by an octopus), other than our selfies.



(Picture: Kraken)

That's a pretty superficial way to match people up, Ken.

Ken selected my match by being given two men's selfies. He then used his magical octopus senses to know who would be my best match, and swam his way over to the selfie of the man who will definitely be my future husband.

Octopus blind dating

He selected Dan, a tall redhead who works in IT and enjoys playing basketball.

Sorry, other guy. I know you're reading this and are very sad about missing out, but Ken knows best. Put your faith in Ken again and I'm sure you will soon be drowning in octopussy.*

*I'm so sorry.

I headed to the date feeling nervous, sleepy (yes, I did have a nap in the cab ride there, because I am a cool grownup and on Fridays my bedtime gets pushed to a wild 10.30pm), and with a few key thoughts running through my mind on an endless loop.

Ellen's inner monologue:

- 'Dear lord, you are so alone that you have agreed to be set up by an octopus.'
- 'You didn't even ask to see the octopus' credentials. He could be a total fraud.'
- 'What if this is just a very strange, detailed murder plot?'
- 'What if you've misunderstood this concept and are actually going on a date *with* an octopus?'
- 'This may be one of the dumbest things I've done.'

Then I arrived at the location, woke myself up, and headed inside to meet Dan… plus a photographer and a Kraken PR, because I am an awful person who uses potential dates for fun internet content.

We shook hands. We ordered a drink. I then made sweet, innocent Dan pose for photos for about 25 minutes, while a photographer told us to ‘look like we’re having fun’ and ‘gaze into each other’s eyes’.

(Picture: Kraken)

Dan is really enjoying our conversation and is definitely not at all uncomfortable. (Picture: Kraken)

It was excruciatingly awkward. Especially the bit where we had to pretend to ‘cheers’ our drinks.

But it turns out that repeatedly mouthing ‘I’m so, so sorry I’m making you do this’ while failing to hold a normal smile for even one photo is a *great* ice-breaker.

By the time we were instructed to sit side by side on a sofa and pretend to have a conversation, I was comfortable enough to be my true, deeply embarrassing self, chatting about that time I masturbated at work and instructing Dan to pretend I’m funny.*

*Which I am.

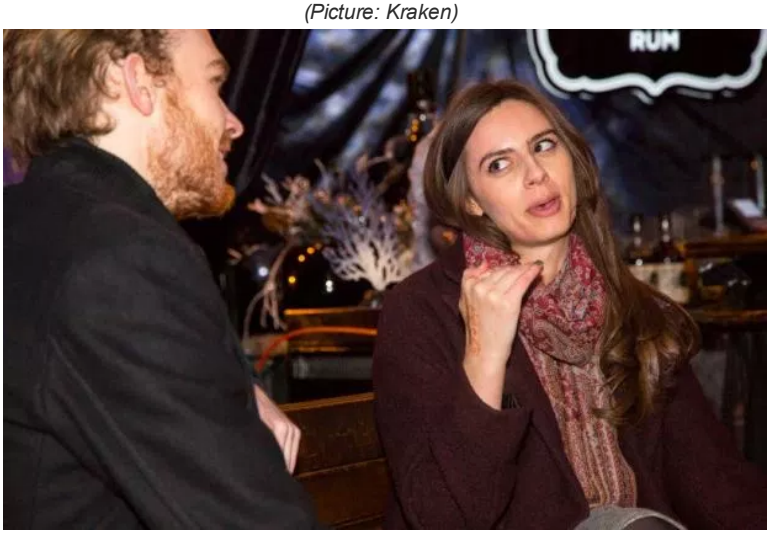
(Picture: Kraken)

Look at us. So natural. So relaxed. (Picture: Kraken)

Once the photographer left, we were free to go inside (it was f***ing freezing outside in the very nicely decorated teepee), have some dinner, drink more cocktails, and go on a normal, regular date.

And you know what? I’ll give it to Ken. He actually did a pretty decent job.

Dan and I had quite a bit in common. We both hate avocados and hate people who lean on poles on the tube. These are very important things to tick off when looking for a date, I reckon.



(Picture: Kraken)

Here I am making a totally normal gesture about slicing someone’s throat. (Picture: Kraken)

He travels a lot, which is cool. He’s funny and good at holding a conversation.

He only seemed a tiny bit fazed by being made to pose for pictures with someone he’d just met, and I could only tell because I could see the pain and despair in his eyes.

Dan explained that he’d signed up to be matched by Ken after seeing a tweet from Kraken and thinking ‘yeah, alright.’

Like me, his recent dating life has not been the best, and he hasn’t found success on Tinder, so he thought he’d put his faith in an octopus – as any normal, reasonable person would do.

Wait, was there a camera there? I had NO IDEA. (Picture: Kraken)

(Picture: Kraken)

There were no awkward silences, lots of laughs, and I was genuinely impressed that Ken had managed to find someone I got along with – because I dislike most people and am prone to saying stupid things that kill all conversations, like detailing my fear of being murdered through Tinder, describing my tendonitis (lads, form an orderly queue), and making jokes about crying in the toilets.

Maybe getting rid of all the overthinking and box-ticking is the key to making dating work.

With the help of Ken, I didn't get to dismiss someone because they'd used an emoji in their Tinder bio or worked in finance. I had to go into the date blind and give someone a proper chance.

ellen-laughs-in-a-totally-natural-way-like-a-normal-person-on-a-date

Here, I laugh at my own joke, because I'm so, so funny. (Picture: Kraken)

Maybe that's the key. Skipping all the pre-date chat and obsessing and just getting out there.

Or maybe Ken truly is a psychic octopus with magical matchmaking abilities. It's possible.

Regardless, I had a great time, Dan appeared to not be completely miserable, and we swapped numbers at the end of the night.

Will I see Dan again? I have no idea.

I'm only letting octopuses make my decisions from now on.

Important info for anyone who wants to put themselves through similar octopus-related awkwardness:

Sadly, it's now to late to be selected by 'The Love Doctor-pus' (that's not even my pun), but Kraken's doing loads of giveaways of rum, cocktail kits, roses, candles, and hoodies over Valentine's weekend. You'll just need to tweet with the #Rumantics hashtag.

You can also pop to a Valentine's themed Kraken popup from 11 February to 12 February at the following locations:

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Maud City Officials Try To Break Off Ice From Water Tower With A Shotgun

MAUD, Oklahoma - news9.com

The small City of Maud faced a serious problem over the weekend.

Ice build up on a leaking water tower raised concerns that the tower could topple.

So, the City came up with a 12-gauge solution. They opened fire on the ice Friday night with a shotgun.

"We took a few shots and tried to knock the ice off. Didn't work very well," Maud City Clerk Don Zeller said.

City leaders said they had to give it a shot, but the ice was just too thick to shatter.

Engineers said the tower was in danger of collapse.

"(We) sent them pictures and they called us and we talked with them for a little while and they said, 'yup, we need to get some of that ice off of there because it is a problem,'" Zeller said.

So, they blocked off the area and opened fire. Police said there was no danger to the public.

"Absolutely not," Maud police Chief Patricia Bateman said. "I was contacted, told that they would block off the perimeter. They talked with the structure engineers and they said that they had everything set up."

Besides, if the tower fell on main power lines, the City would have been left with no water or electricity.

The tower began leaking around Christmas, and froze over during last week's cold spell. The City plans to fix the leak until it can replace the almost 90-year-old water tower.

The City Council approved a measure to fix the water tower Monday night.

"This was uncharted territory for us," Zeller said. "So, we were just kinda flying by the seat of our pants by doing the best we could."

All content © Copyright 2000 - 2017 KWTV. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy, and Terms of Service, and Ad Choices.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

nsylvania yor accused of urbing graves

ociated Press February 1, 2017

SHAMOKIN, Pa. (AP) — A central Pennsylvania mayor has been accused by authorities of disturbing 14 graves through work on a cellphone tower planned for the cemetery where he serves as board president.

Police charged Shamokin Mayor Bill Milbrand with vandalism over the plan to build the cellphone tower over the graves. He has denied the charges and said he had little involvement in the project, which would have generated money for cemetery upkeep.

Some of the 16,000 graves at Shamokin Cemetery date to 1919.

Milbrand told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he could not discuss the situation until he met with a lawyer. He was arrested and handcuffed Tuesday at his tour bus company.

Police accused him of letting construction crews cover more than a dozen graves with dirt in order to place the cell tower at the back of the cemetery. Milbrand hoped it could generate $900 to $1,200 a month.

"If it is proven that graves were disturbed, with my own money I will see that it gets righted," Milbrand told the Daily Item of Sunbury.

The arrest followed a complaint from local resident Thomas Ward. According to court papers, Shamokin Patrolman William Miner used burial records and photographic evidence to determine that 14 graves had been disturbed, and spoke with

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

2010. He was charged with 14 felony vandalism counts along with lesser charges. He has been released on $20,000 unsecured bail.

View Reactions (39)

Share your reaction

GIF Post

Yahoo News

Video shows Jeff Sessions…

President Trump fired acting Attorney General…

6,112

Yahoo News

D.C. outsiders get

118

Reuters

Four hostages taken, two…

One of the released hostages, an officer, was…

3

Associated Press

After walkabout, escaped bobcat…

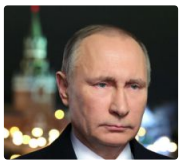
After a two-plus day walkabout in the leafy wil…

24

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox Answers »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News



Foreign Policy Magazine

Arrested Russian FSB Agents…

A top cybersecurity specialist and his deputy…

1,846

AFP

Ukraine clashes 'blatant violatio…

The EU said Tuesday an upsurge in fighting…

32

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

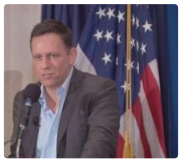
Reuters

Suspect in Canada mosqu…

By Allison Lampert

QUEBEC CITY (Reuters)…

15



Associated Press

Peter Thiel became New…

Silicon Valley billionaire and President Donald…

1,359

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celeb Try Yahoo News on Firefox »

Search Search

News Home US World Politics Tech Science Odd News

Yahoo News

Full coverage: Reactions and…

On Tuesday night, President Trump selecte…

409

Meet Cardiff's criminals from more than a hundred years ago

dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Faces of Cardiff's criminals are revealed in archives from 100 years ago (including a woman who got six months hard labour for 'obtaining a piano by fraud')

- **Cardiff Borough Police Force Records dating from 1904-1907 reveal crimes and the faces behind them**
- **Each page in the document records the criminal's name, crime and punishment - as well as a mugshot**
- **Crimes from train-fare dodging to abandoning children included in the records held at Glamorgan Archives**
- **Punishments ranged from being released in return for good behaviour to imprisonment and hard labour**

By Jessica Walford For Mailonline

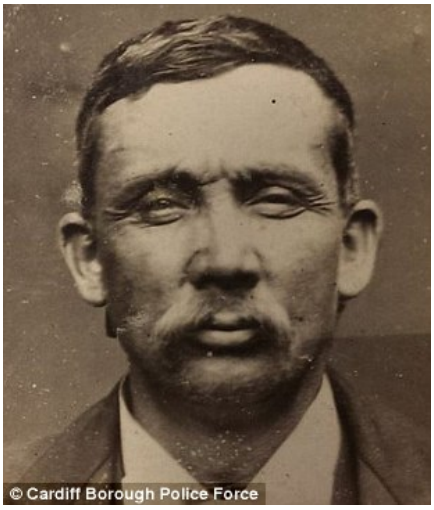
Published: 14:22 EST, 20 January 2017 | Updated: 14:24 EST, 20 January 2017

Back in the 1900s, life was very different in Cardiff.

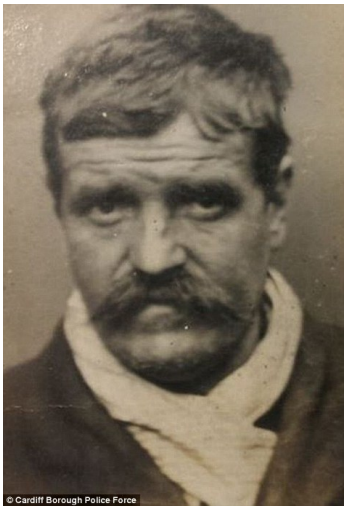
The last horse-drawn trams in the city were replaced with electric ones in 1902, Cardiff's first Boy Scout group was formed in 1908 and Cardiff itself only became a city in 1905.

But it seems the crimes being committed more than a hundred years ago in the Welsh capital weren't too different from today – albeit with some much harsher punishments.

From train-fare dodging to pickpocketing, a glimpse into the seedy underbelly of the city has been revealed in document dating from the 1900s, reports WalesOnline.



Some of the stranger crimes included in the document included obtaining a piano by fraud. (Left to right) Emily Walters, Robert Walters and Thomas Roberts all received punishments of hard labour after being convicted of the crime. Emily was sentenced to six months hard labour, Robert was forced to serve two months hard labour but Thomas was given four months hard labour



Theft was a common crime in Cardiff with the punishment often being hard labour. George Gibson (left) was convicted of stealing shoes and sentenced to one month of hard labour and James Thomas (right) was convicted of shopbreaking and stealing sweets and was given a punishment of four months hard labour

Lily Morgan (left) was convicted of abandoning her child and sentenced to be bound over on £5/good behaviour over 12 months and Gwen Evans (right) was found guilty of obtaining food by false pretences and was ordered to serve nine months hard labour

Bessie Hansen (left) was convicted of selling beer without a licence and fined £25 and costs or faced one month imprisonment and William Harris (right) was found guilty of travelling on Great Western Railway without paying a fare and was given a 11/- fine and costs or seven days hard labour

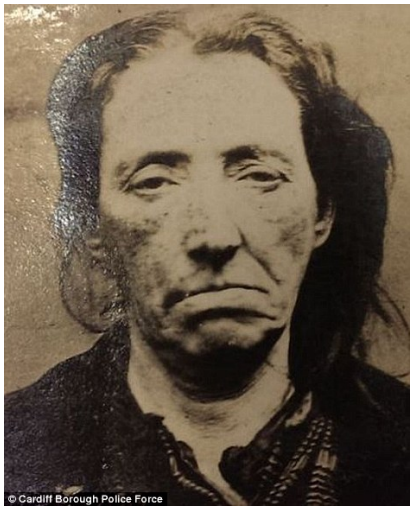
Lydia Jones (left) was convicted of uttering counterfeit coin and sentenced to three months hard labour, Daisy Gamlin (centre) was found guilty of larceny as a servant but was bound over and Henry Williams (right) was convicted of being a naval deserter and ordered to return to his ship as his punishment

Contained in the Cardiff Borough Police Force Records, held at the

Glamorgan Archives in Leckwith, a rare snapshot of crime in the city can be found - showing the mugshots of criminals, along with the crimes they committed and the punishments they received.

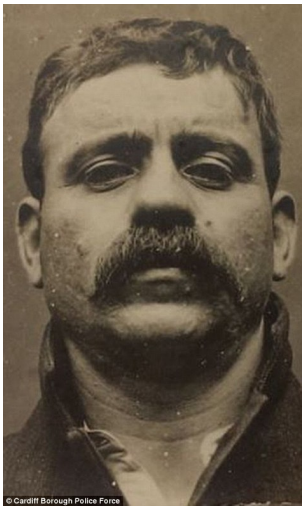
- Manuscripts, personal letters and even a lock of HAIR... The incredible story of Italy's real-life Sherlock Holmes... The real-life X-Files: How CIA recruited Uri Geller to test...

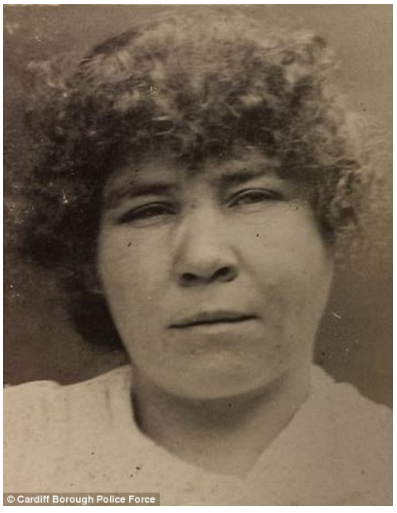
Along with crimes such as theft, or larceny as it was known back then, begging and crimes associated with prostitution, crimes such as stealing shoes and sweets, selling beer without a licence and obtaining a piano by fraud were included in the document.

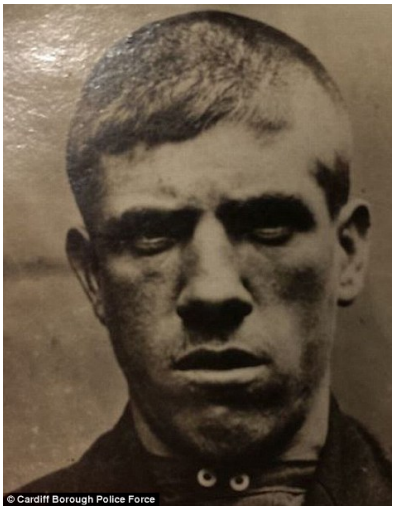


John William Thomas (left) and Mary Hetherington (right) were also both convicted of stealing but received different punishments. While John was sentenced to 14 days hard labour, Mary was given seven days imprisonment

Francis Gorden (left) was convicted of pick-pocketing and was given four months hard labour. George Chacos (right) was convicted of keeping a gaming house and ordered to pay £5 costs/one month imprisonment

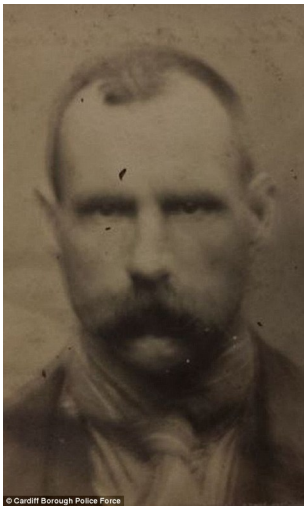






Crimes linked to prostitution were also found in the document dating back over a hundred years. Margaret Probert (left) was charged with being a disorderly prostitute and sentenced to 14 days hard labour and Thomas Riley (right) was convicted of living on earnings from prostitution but was given two months hard labour

Simon Simon (left) was found guilty of violently assaulting his wife, Matilda Simon, and sentenced to 12 months hard labour for causing GBH and Julia Ann Farrell (right) was found guilty of bigamy and received three days imprisonment as punishment for her crime



Punishments ranged from being ‘bound over’, which meant a criminal was released on the condition of good behaviour, to imprisonment or hard labour.

Comments (28

The comments below have not been moderated.

Jörg66, Bremen, Germany, about 3 hours ago

Seems like Lombroso was indeed right.

Alexandra Sands, London, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

And now they sit in prison with their phones and TVs and computers. And they have good food. It is not really prison these days. Not like it was back then.

JB, anywhere, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

We could do with some sentences like that these days instead of cushy cells with all found. In Newgate prison you had to pay for your keep. Sounds like a good idea to me

the_major, Horsham, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Bounders the lot of 'em. Where's mi horsewhip?

Alibongosboots, Benghazi, about 3 hours ago

Ah, Major, shall we see you at our 'special club' next Thursday ?

Centurion27, Newport, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Welsh assembly members .

HappyCamper, Lower Hutt, New Zealand, about 4 hours ago

"Paddy was a Welshman, Paddy was a . . .".

FarageLoadOfNonsense, SafeInEU, Antarctica, about 5 hours ago

Tory Britain We will return to those days when article 50 is triggered.

ajacq, Hartlepool, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

For God's sake, let it go

ProudBrit1, STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

Good the crime rate might go down then!

edward partridge, coventry, about 5 hours ago

Jeremy Corbyns new shadow cabinet.

President Biff, YOU ESS EH, United States, about 5 hours ago

Definitely not the Tories .....not enough USLESS Token Women

Pontylad, Green green grass of home, about 6 hours ago

That lot don't look particularly undernourished anyway , I think you'd find how shall I put it a different "mix" in mug shots these days in Cardiff .

Mark, Chester, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Slaps on the wrists compared to 1840 at Chester - read that everyday offences most came with jail and at least one good whipping and up to 'thrice whipped' for second time arounders. At least fifty percent of thieves who were second timers were transported from 7 years up to life. One 14 year old boy found guilty of having carnal knowledge with a beast got the death sentence.

Chumps, Sutton Coldfield, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

That guy kissing his dog had better watchout!

Manilva, newcastle upon tyne, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

The severity of their punishment for what are, to all intents and purposes, minor crimes truly are harsh compared to today's joke sentences for serious crimes.

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Melbourne warned of beach poo hazard after storms - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC

- 2 January 2017
- From the sectionAustralia

Image copyrightScott Barbour/Getty Images

Swimmers are being warned to avoid some of Melbourne's most popular beaches, after torrential storms washed faeces into the water.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in Victoria is forecasting poor water quality at 21 of the 36 beaches it checks in Port Phillip Bay.

Contaminated water can cause gastroenteritis - a stomach bug - especially in children and the elderly.

A "poor" quality forecast equates to an illness risk of between 5% and 10%.

Australia's public broadcaster ABC said the risky beaches run from Werribee South in Melbourne's south-west to Frankston, about 40 kilometres south of the city's Central Business District.

Dr Anthony Boxshall, the EPA's manager of applied sciences, told ABC News 24: "We have indicators we look for (in water tests), which is an indicator of faecal contamination, which is a really nice way of saying poo."

"It's bird poo, it's horse poo, it's cow poo and it's people poo.

"It is everything that washes in from the streets, and everything that comes out through the storm water system."

Dr Boxshall said the water should be back to normal within around 24 to 48 hours, unless there is more rain - which forecasts suggest is possible.

EPA Victoria publishes alerts on its website to help beachgoers around Port Phillip Bay avoid hazards like sewage spills and jellyfish.

It plans to conduct more tests this week and post the results online.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Minnesota cops threaten to force drunk drivers to watch Justin Bieber Super Bowl ad

torontosun.com

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First posted: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 01:33 AM EST | Updated: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 01:42 AM EST

Justin Bieber stars in a T-Mobile ad that aired during Sunday's Super Bowl. (screengrab)

WYOMING, Minn. — A Minnesota police department threatened to force drunken drivers to watch a Super Bowl ad featuring Justin Bieber.

The police department in the city of Wyoming tweeted during the Super Bowl that anyone caught driving drunk Sunday night would be forced to watch the pop star the entire way to jail.

Bieber starred in a T-Mobile ad doing his version of a celebratory end zone dance.

The original tweet was retweeted at least 10,000 times and liked at least 16,000. The department later tweeted thanks to everybody for spreading their message against drinking and driving.

Police Chief Paul Hoppe tells the St. Paul Pioneer Press all the attention may have resulted in up to 1 million impressions.

And he says his department made no drunken driving arrests Sunday night.

POSTMEDIA

Copyright © 2016 All rights reserved

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Moby Dick's Restaurant lease blocked due in part to its "offensive name"

/ David Pescovitz / 9:28 am Tue Jan 17, 2017
9:28 am Tue

boingboing.net

A building council in Vancouver, BC commercial building are reportedly refusing to allow one of the building owners to lease to Moby Dick's Restaurant, a fish-and-chips franchise, in part because of its name. According to a lawsuit, the building council claims that “that the word ‘Dick’ in Moby Dick was an offensive term" and "also claimed a Moby Dick sign would hurt the value of neighboring properties, and that the restaurant would bring increased litter and violate city laws on odor." From Courthouse News Service:

> “It was clear by the end of August 2016 that the Strata intended to refuse any signage proposals belonging to Moby Dick which resembled its traditional trademark and brand,” the complaint states. “Instead, the Strata demanded that Moby Dick adopt a signage that was ‘minimalist’ both in color and design. As such, the Strata wrongfully denied Moby Dick’s use of its logo, brand name, and goodwill recognition at the commercial property.”
>
> Mengfa seeks declaratory judgment and damages for interference with business relations.

Boing Boing is published under a Creative Commons license except where otherwise noted.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

told-in-Pictures.jpg'; }

A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Monster or Maniac?

0 comments

On March 17, 1888, Mrs. Sarah Jane Whiteling of Philadelphia sent for the family physician, Dr. George Smith, to examine her husband, John, who was vomiting and suffering from abdominal pains. The doctor diagnosed John's illness as inflammation of the bowels and prescribed some medicine. It did not relieve the suffering, however, and three days later John Whiteling was dead.

Sarah Jane Whiteling

Dr. Smith was summoned to the Whiteling home again about a month later, this time to attend Mrs. Whiteling's daughter Bertha. She expired as well, and Dr. Smith attributed her death to gastric fever. When Dr. Smith was called again in early June, to treat 2-year-old William Whiteling he refused; having already presided over two deaths in the Whiteling household he referred the case to Dr. George Dietrick. When William died, Dr. Dietrick gave obstruction of the bowels as the cause of death.

After the three deaths with similar symptoms, Dr. Smith became suspicious and went to the coroner with concerns that something wasn't right in the Whiteling household. Deputy Coroner Powers went to the home of Mrs. Whiteling and thoroughly examined the drainage, but found nothing unusual. Coroner Ashbridge ordered the exhumation of the three bodies and a chemical analysis of the viscera found that each contained a large amount of arsenic. Mrs. Whiteling was arrested and her house was searched for poison.

At first, Mrs. Whiteling denied having anything to do with the death of her husband and children, but after intense questioning, she finally gave a detailed confession beginning with the story of her life before arriving in Philadelphia. She was born Sarah Jane Bard in 1848 and brought to America from Germany when she was nine months old by her mother who died soon after. She was raised by an

Welcome to Murder by Gaslight

Greed, jealousy, revenge, obsession – the motives of America's gas-lit murders are universal and timeless. Yet their stories are tightly bound to a particular place and time; uniquely American, uniquely 19th Century.

From the Archives.

The Six Capsules

Helen Potts, a nineteen year old student at Miss Comstock's School in New York City, decided not to join her roommates when they went to h...

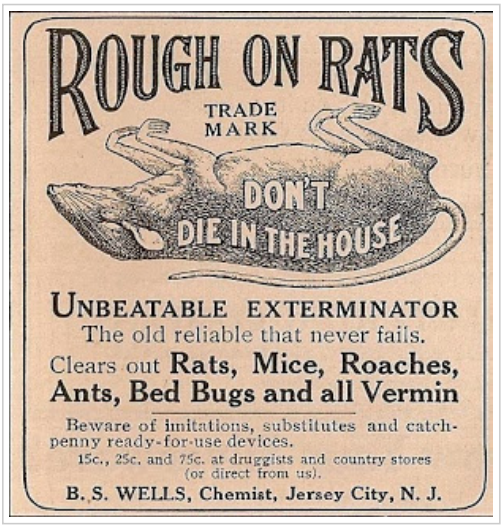
Buy My Books

Follow

Follow my blog with Bloglovin

American family in Iowa until she was 12 then began working as a housekeeper for different families.

In 1868 she married Tom Brown, and they moved to Chicago where they stayed until the great fire, then they moved to Philadelphia. In 1887 Tom Brown was arrested for highway robbery and sentenced to the Eastern Penitentiary where he died soon after arriving. Sarah Jane took up with Thomas Story who kept an oyster saloon in Philadelphia. He was the father of her daughter Bertha but she and Story broke up soon after the birth. Bertha was nine months old when Sarah Jane married John Whiteling, a street car conductor, and factory worker.



The poison came into their house in the form of a commercial product for exterminating vermin known as Rough on Rats. Mrs. Whiteling bought it to kill insects that had infested the house, but her husband forbade her from using it out of fear that the children might be poisoned. John Whiteling had a history of depression and was often too sick to work. Soon after Sarah brought the poison home, John told her that he had taken it himself to commit suicide.

She sent for Dr. Smith, and although she knew her husband had taken poison, she did not tell the doctor; she was afraid that if he died, she would not get his insurance money. His life was insured by John Hancock and she received $145 on her husband's death. She also received $85 from Herd No. 2 of the Order of Buffaloes.

About a month later Mrs. Whiteling decided to poison Bertha. Her motive, she said, was not for the insurance money but because she feared "that Birdie might grow up to be sinful and wicked." She had a habit of stealing pennies from people and had once stolen a pocketbook from her teacher. Bertha was a thief, and a liar and her mother did not want her to grow up to be a great sinner. She gave Bertha a spoonful of Rough on Rats, dissolved in a glass of water, every half hour until she started to show symptoms. At the same time, she gave poison-laced candy to neighborhood children to throw suspicion on the candy. Bertha's life was also insured by John Hancock and when she died her mother received $122.

Mrs. Whiteling admitted that her little son William was sinless; she poisoned him to get him out of the way. He was a burden; she could not go out to work and care for him as well. On his death, she received $17 from Prudential and $30 from John Hancock.

"Now I know my children are angels in Heaven," Mrs. Whiteling said, "and I want to meet them when I die. I don't expect to meet my husband there because he committed suicide and a suicide cannot go to heaven." But the police and the coroner did not believe that John Whiteling had taken his own life and a few days later Mrs. Whiteling admitted this murder too. She had stopped in the street on the way home from buying the Rough on Rats. "Then," she said, "the devil possessed me and told me to go home and give my husband some of it, and I did."

Sarah Jane Whiteling was charged with three counts of murder. Her trial, in November, was for the murder of her daughter Bertha. There was no question of her guilt, but the jury would decide if she killed with malice aforethought. Her plea was not guilty by reason of insanity. Throughout the trial, she was attired in deep mourning wearing a black dress and with a thick black veil covering her face.

Her attorney, Mr. Paxson, in his closing argument called for

THE NATIONAL NIGHT STICK
Crime, Eccentricity and the Sporting Life in 19th Century America
& Confessions of Jonathan Pratt

Murder List

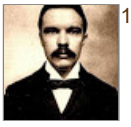
19th Century American Murders

Popular Posts

Monster or Maniac?

The Killing of Bill The Butcher

Murderous Shooting in a Bagnio.


19th Century Serial Killers.

The Corpse in the Shipping Crate

The Six Capsules

Lizzie Borden Took an Axe...Or Did She?

The Notorious Patty Cannon.

The Legend of Lavinia Fisher

Big Harpe and Little

mercy. "I appeal to you, gentlemen of the jury," he said, "as you love and venerate the character of woman; by that spirit of holy reverence that surrounds your recollection of mother, sister, or daughter; by all the holiest, purest, and sweetest ties of our fallen nature; by that tender regard for the character and suffering of woman which is today the distinguishing mark of Christian civilization, to approach this awful question with tenderness, mercy and fear. As you hope that the great Judge of all in your last extremity, will heed your plea for mercy, render in this hour your duty to this poor creature, this child, your sister, and mine, in the great brotherhood of God's love, for with what measure you mete it shall be measured to you again."

Mr. Paxson's words had affected one juror before the jury retired to deliberate; he favored clemency because the defendant was a woman. The remaining eleven spent the next hour and a half convincing him otherwise. In the end, the jury unanimously found Mrs. Whiteling guilty of first-degree murder. She was sentenced to hang on March 27, 1889.

Mrs. Whiteling's motion for a new trial was denied. She petitioned the governor to commute the sentence to life in prison, and this was denied as well. He did grant a temporary respite, but on June 25, 1889, she climbed the steps to the gallows in County Prison. She went calmly and almost serenely to her fate, whispering a prayer but making no statement. She had earlier told her spiritual advisors that she expected to meet her husband and children in heaven.

The trap was sprung at 10:07 and eleven minutes later Sarah Jane Whiteling became the first woman executed in Philadelphia County.

Sources:
""Did Kill and Murder" ," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 14, 1888.
"[Sarah Jane Whiteling]," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 29, 1888.
"Appalling Revelation," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 13, 1888.
"The Board of Pardons," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 19, 1889.
"The Case of Mrs. Whiteling," *Lucifer, the Light-Bearer,* April 19, 1889.
"Crimes And Accidents.," *Springfield Republican*, December 23, 1888.
"Deserved Death," *Plain Dealer*, June 26, 1889.
"Granted a Respite," *Daily Illinois State Register*, March 22, 1889.
"Monster or Maniac? ," *New York Herald*, June 16, 1888.
"Mrs. Whiteling Ready to Hang," *New York Herald*, June 25, 1889.
"Mrs. Whiteling to Hang in March," *Weekly Courier-Journal,* January 14, 1889.
"Sarah Jane Whiteling," *Trenton Evening Times*, December 9, 1888.
"The Penalty is Death ," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 29, 1888.

Posted by Robert Wilhelm

Labels: 1880s , Family , Pennsylvania , Philadelphia , Poisoning

0 comments :

Post a Comment

Harpe

American Murder Ballads

The Modern Cain and Abel
Polly Williams
Polly Williams (poem)
The Murder of Polly Williams (poem)
The Lost Miners
Dunbar, the Murderer
Dr. Burdell, or The Bond Street Murder
The Bellevue Baby Mrs. Cunningham's Adopted
Pearl Bryan I
Pearl Bryan II
Pearl Bryan III
Lydia Sherman
The Indiana Hero (aka Fuller & Warren)
The Mournful and Pathetic Ballad on the Murder of John Love
Meeks Family Murder
Midnight Murder of the Meeks Family
Ewing Brooks
The Arsenic Tragedy
Poor Ellen Smith
The Stokes Verdict
The Harry Hayward Song
The Knoxville Girl
The Ballad of Frankie Silver
Delia
Delia's Gone
Leaving Home
Frankie and Albert
Frankie and Johnny
Suncook Town Tragedy
Tom Dooley
Alice Mitchell and Freddy Ward
Fall River Hoedown
OMIE WISE
Stack O'Lee Blues
Billy Lyons and Stack O'Lee

About Me

Profile

Fight Internet Censorship!

History/Crime Blogs

ExecutedToday.com
22 hours ago

Post a Comment

Enter your comment...

Comment as: Vila Wolf (Goo

Sign out

Publish Preview Notify me

Links to this post

Create a Link

Newer Post Home Older Post

True Crime Historian
1 day ago

Nobody Move!
1 day ago

The Rap Sheet
1 day ago

Strange Company
3 days ago

Dead Guys In Suits
5 weeks ago

History and Women
1 month ago

Soapy Smith's Soap Box
1 month ago

The World of Edgar Allan Poe
1 month ago

Morbid Anatomy
1 month ago

Scandalous Women
2 months ago

Ann Marie Ackermann's author website
3 months ago

Civil War Medicine (and Writing)
8 months ago

Early American Crime
1 year ago

History Confidential
1 year ago

Lizzie Borden: Warps and Wefts
2 years ago

History in the Raw (The bare facts of history that you don't get to read very often)
2 years ago

YesterYear Once More
3 years ago

The Virtual Dime Museum

History Press Blog

Coming Soon

Phoebe Paulin
Red-nosed Mike
Evelina Bliss
Daniel D. Farmer
Christopher Wilcox
Lee Teep
Mary Catherine Richards
E. M. Dalton
William Martin
Charles Marlow
Anson Bunker
William Kemmler
Alice Meaker
Reyes Baca
John G. Van Nest
Mariweather Lewis
James Brady

Ella Speed

Labels

1600s 1700s 1790s 1800s 1810s 1820s 1830s 1840s 1850s 1860s 1870s 1880s 1890s 1900 Abortion Adultery African Americans Alabama Alaska Albany Alcohol arson Art Assassination Axe Murder Ballad Baltimore Beating Benders Betrayal Bigamy Blackmail Blows from a hammer Blows to the head Boiled Book Boston Boxer Broken neck Brooklyn Bully Burglary Burned California Cannibalism Chicago Chiciago Childbirth Chinese Chloroform Chopping Christmas Cincinnati Cleric Clubbing Colorado Coming Soon Compilation Confession Conman Connecticut Conspiracy Cremation Cuban Cult De Quincey Deathbed Confession Decapitation Defenestration Delaware Dismemberment Dissolved Documentary Dropped down a trap door Drowning Editorial Exoneration Factory Fall River Family Famous Attorneys Fight Fire Florida Fratricide Fraud Freemasonry gambling Gangs Gay Georgia Ghosts Guest Blogger Gunshot H.H. Holmes Halloween Hanging Hoax Honor Hypnotism Illinois Indian Territory Indiana Insanity Insult Insurance Iowa Jack the Ripper Jealousy Kansas Kentucky Kidnapping Knocked off a horse Lafcadio Hearn Legend Lesbian Little Murders Lizzie Borden London Louisiana Lynching Maine Mariticide Maryland Massachusetts Matricide Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Murder and Mayhem in Essex County Murder Pamphlets Murders Mutilation Nebraska New Feature New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New Orleans New York New York City News Newspapers North Carolina Ohio Pardon Patricide Pennsylvania Philadelphia Phrenology Pictures Piracy Poe Poem Poisoning Politics Poll Pregnancy Preview Prison Prostitution Pushed down stairs Quebec Rape Religion Revenge Review Rhode Island Robbery Schoolgirl Secret Societies Seduction Serial Killer Shooting Slashing Slavery South Carolina Spiritualism Spouse St. Louis Stabbing Statistics Strangulation Suffocation suicide Summary Supreme Court Temporary Insanity Tennessee Texas The Bloody Century Theatre Theft Thrown from a Train Treachery Trunk Murder Unsolved Uxoricide Vermont Virginia Voodoo Washington DC Website West Virginia Whipping Wisconsin Witchcraft Women Woolfolk Murders

Blog Archive

▼ 2017 (6)

▼ February (2)

Murderous Shooting in a Bagnio.

Monster or Maniac?

► January (4)

► 2016 (53)
► 2015 (53)
► 2014 (55)
► 2013 (52)
► 2012 (57)
► 2011 (62)
► 2010 (58)
► 2009 (38)

Blog Lists

Top 40 Private Eye Blogs

The 50 Best American History Blogs

Great History Sites

Statistics

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

Tanzania: More Emerges On Brutal Killings

By Zephania Ubwani

allafrica.com

Photo: Daily News (file photo).

Arusha — One of the victims during the hacking to death of three agricultural researchers in Dodoma on Saturday watched in horror as two of her colleagues were slashed with axes and machetes before the killers turned on her.

Teddy Lumanga was the last to die in the brutal assault that saw fellow staff with the Arusha-based Selian Agricultural Research Institute (Sari) Faraji Mafuru and Nicas Magazine and herself killed and their bodies set on fire.

An official of the institute, who arrived here yesterday from the scene of crime in Mvumi-Iringa village in Chamwino district, Dodoma region, said the killers may have deliberately spared the lady researcher to make her witness the gruesome murder of her colleagues.

People familiar with the agricultural field research absolved the victims for having failed to act swiftly to save their lives because such a harrowing incident has never happened in the country's history.

After being surrounded by the villagers who looked possessed and armed with all manner of traditional weapons, the three researchers were pulled out of their vehicle and assaulted.

"The mob was so huge that some local leaders who tried to defend them were forced to flee the scene because of their safety," remarked the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

He told The Citizen that although accounts of the last moments of the victims were scant, they tried to defend themselves that they were on official duty and may have not realized their lives were in danger since the country has not witnessed such attacks on researchers before.

The official, who arrived in Arusha early yesterday with the bodies of the three slain officials, hinted that even if the trio had realized danger, it may have been difficult for them to flee to safety because of bad terrain and little knowledge of the area.

He nevertheless wondered why it took two hours from the time a false alarm was raised by a woman in the village on the alleged presence of vampires in the area to the time the field researchers finally succumbed after they were attacked and their bodies were burned.

According to accounts at the scene, the female researcher who would be buried in Arusha today, witnessed how her colleagues were cut into pieces before the mobs which looked possessed turned their axes, commonly known in Dodoma region as 'nyengo', as well as sticks, machetes and stones were turned on her.

The killings, the official confided to The Citizen,took place outside the vehicle with some body parts already separated from the torso.

"All the body parts were later piled up and set on fire with the aid of farm residues and logs and put on fire," he said as workers of the institute paid last respects before the bodies of the deceased were taken to their home districts for burial.

The burning did not end there but the already roasted bodies were brought into the vehicle which was also put on more intense fire. The villagers later dispersed and it took hours for the police to reach the scene and realize the horrific killings.

He, however, commended the Dodoma regional leaders and the police for the swift action which has seen the arrest of 45 people suspected of involvement in the brutal killings which has sent shock waves and grief among the agricultural researchers in and around Arusha.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this barbaric act. The government should take measures against them and severely punish those behind it," said Dr. Charles Lyamchai, the research co-ordinator with the institute.

He said the slain officers were neither criminals nor vampires as claimed by the villagers who set on them after a false alarm was raised by a woman. Her screams were echoed by a church leader who told a congregation that the village had been invaded by the alleged blood suckers.

"Our staff had all letters of introduction but those people did not want to listen to them. This is not the Tanzania we knew. The government should take measures against those who took the decision," he said.

Dr. Eliningaya Kweka, the acting director general the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), another agricultural institution often involved in field studies, said the sector was short of words and pained by the killings and much worried now.

He suggested that although this was an unprecedented incident, wananchi in the remote villages should be adequately sensitized on the research teams frequenting their areas.

"It is terrible. Killing people with axes? It has never happened in this country," said Cornel Massawe, of the Tengeru Horticultural Institute, one of the partner institutions in agricultural research with Sari.

An assistant director in the ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Hussein Mansoor, who flew here on Sunday after learning of the tragedy, admitted that the slaying of the three Selian Ari staff remained a mystery.

"These are no ordinary killings but acts of bestiality," he told The Citizen at the institute located near the Arusha airport, noting that the deceased had been in the area for days before their lives were cut short.

While investigations by the police are still on, there are reports that a recent utteraces by a local politician in Dodoma may have a hand in the gruesome murder on Saturday.

The slain officials were in the district collecting soil samples under a nation-wide project on soil mapping under the Tanzania Soil Information Services being executed by the Arusha-based institute. At their time of the killing, there were a total of 14 researchers from the institute carrying out soil studies in Dodoma region.

Another researcher, Dr. Lameck Makoye, said staff from the institute doing field studies would normally take precautions in areas where land conflicts are rife but has not seen anything like this.

Selian ARI doubles as the northern zone agricultural research centre and specializes in dryland agriculture focusing on maize, beans, wheat, barley, sunflower and pigeon peas.It was established in the late 1970s to support large scale wheat farming in the northern regions, including the ex-Nafco wheat farms in Hanang district in present day Manyara region.

Copyright © 2016 The Citizen. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com). To contact the copyright holder directly for corrections — or for permission to republish or make other authorized use of this material, click here.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Most charges dropped vs. man in bunny suit, air horn case

yahoo.com

AP HOPATCONG, N.J. (AP) — Prosecutors have dropped most charges against two New Jersey brothers stemming from an incident in which one of them wore a bunny costume and repeatedly blew an air horn inside a police station.

The New Jersey Herald reports (http://bit.ly/2i9spps) the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office will not pursue charges of harassment, obstruction, and resisting arrest against Kevin Hemmerich because of insufficient evidence. Similar charges were also dismissed against Jason Hemmerich.

Prosecutors are still charging Kevin Hemmerich with disorderly conduct.

On Nov. 17, Kevin Hemmerich, accompanied by his brother, entered the Hopatcong Police Department lobby to turn himself in for an outstanding warrant. Kevin Hemmerich was dressed in a bunny costume and repeatedly blew the air horn.

A police officer slapped Kevin Hemmerich after asking him why he was blowing the horn. The officer was charged with assault.

___

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Mother believes picture shows ghost of baby son watching over his twin sister

metro.co.uk

(Picture: Shanelle Massey Photography)
A mother-of-six has released a picture that she believes shows her son watching over his twin sister as she grows up.

Deb Larcombe lost Jeremy at birth and was told there was a high risk that she would also lose Taylah because he was lying above her in the womb.

She believes Jeremy clung to life so that he could save his sister's life.

As proof of their unshakeable bond, Deb has revealed a picture of eight-year-old Taylah with a glowing shape by her head that she believes could be the spirit of little Jeremy remaining by her side.

Deb, from Queensland, Australia, said: 'We were at my parents' house and Wayne [Larcombe, 45] and I were getting married that week but it was a surprise – no one else knew.

She believes Jeremy was pictured looking over his sister Taylah (Picture: Shanelle Massey Photography)
'So we asked my daughter Shanelle [King-Massey, 21] to take some pictures of the family since the date would be quite important to us – I wanted some nice photos of my children and grandchildren.

'But she didn't realise I was going to use ours as a wedding photo.

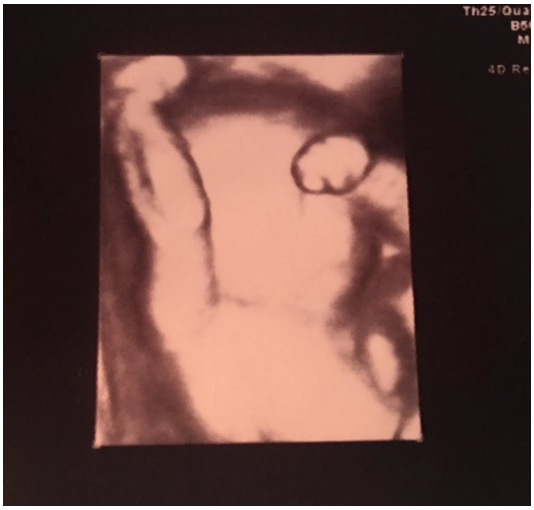
'After seeing the picture of the glowing face next to Taylah, people have kept telling me that Jeremy wanted to be in the picture.

'It's very special to me. We have a small version of it up but I want to get a large version put in a frame on the wall.

'All the pictures from that day seem to have something in them. It is like there is a light moving around Taylah – and I think it could be Jeremy.

Deb said that she thinks Jeremy stayed alive in the womb to save his sister's life (Picture: Mercury)
'If he is there it's as a friend and it's nice to know he is nearby, watching over his sister.

'Shanelle says she didn't see anything in them when she took them and even now when I have told her [what we have seen] she thought it was a bit freaky. But she says she hasn't done any editing of them to create it.



‘She can see the things in the photos but doesn’t really want to believe in them as she finds it quite scary. She was only 14 when we lost Jeremy so she finds it hard to accept.

‘But I take comfort in the thought it’s him. Ever since Taylah was born we talked about Jeremy.

‘Sadly we never got photos of them together. I held him in my arms until he passed away and only got one photo of him alive.

‘It would mean a lot to me to think that here is a picture of him and Taylah still together in a way, with him staying by her.’

Deb had a brain haemorrhage in 2005 meaning that when she became pregnant in November 2007, doctors were concerned about the toll of having twins could have on her.

But 14 weeks into her pregnancy, she was told that Jeremy suffered from Trisomy 18, also known as Edwards’ Syndrome, a serious genetic condition in which there is an additional chromosome in some or all of the body’s cells.

Depending on the severity, around one in every 12 babies born with the syndrome will survive beyond their first year and they will suffer severe physical and mental disabilities.

Jeremy had a section of his brain missing and a major heart issue.

Deb said: ‘The news was devastating to me. The thought of losing either of my babies was heart-breaking.

‘With each weekly hospital visit for check up ultrasounds I would go in not knowing if Jeremy was going to be alive or if he had passed away. Watching for that sign of life each time was such a hard experience.

Most powerful images of 2017 include assassination of Russian ambassador

Penguin 'stolen' from zoo could die if it isn't returned quickly

Isis 'issues direct threats to attack Spanish beaches'

‘Once I reached the 20 week mark in my pregnancy the thought of losing Jeremy before birth became a lot more frightening. We knew he was positioned above Taylah in my womb and that if he miscarried now there was a very high chance of him causing Taylah to miscarry with him.

‘It was then I became very scared and I really wanted him to live and ensure he could help his sister be born safely.

‘And he was a little person – I desperately wanted to meet him and not have him die inside me.

‘I was so thankful I got to meet him and spend that one hour and 20 minutes with him. His father and I took turns cradling him.

‘Then Taylah was born healthy at 5lb 10oz but Jeremy was just 2lb 7oz. I believe he may have held on for Taylah – he protected her.

‘Doctors were very worried about me. Afterwards, once Taylah was born healthy doctors admitted they didn’t think I would leave the hospital with a baby.

‘It’s a miracle I left with her and I believe Jeremy played a part in that.’

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'I do not want my child to look anything less than pristine'

10/01/2017 news.com.au

January 10, 20173:21pm

AN ANGRY mum sent her friend an invoice, ordering her to pay up after her daughter's £325 ($537) red leather boots were marked with pen during a play-date.

Fashion designer Sarah Bryan, who created the infamous Skittles dress, spotted the damage when three-year-old Isabella returned home after an afternoon of fun, reports The Sun.

Sarah Bryan was furious when three-year-old Isabella came home from a play-date with scuffed shoes. Picture: Ben Lack Photography.*Source:*Supplied

Sarah, who once made a dress out of pubic hair, immediately fired off an angry email to friend Nicola Gibbs, 33, and told her to pay for a new pair or face further action.

Single mum-of-two Sarah, 28, fumed: "If your child comes back with scratches on their body, you'd be like 'what's happened?'

"It's the same with her shoes. She's not supposed to go outside with them.

"Wherever she goes, she goes with a bag of other shoes.

"Obviously shoes get scuffed on the soles, but these look like they've been worn for a year, not for a few hours.

"There's also a big black mark on the toe where they've been drawn on. I was devastated when I saw them."

The shoes were also scuffed on the sole. Picture: Ben Lack Photography*Source:*Supplied

Sarah, who also has a 13-year-old son Keegan, says her daughter has about 60 pairs of shoes and only wears designer labels.

She even ships in clothes from a specialist Spanish boutique.

In her email to mum-of-three Nicola she wrote: "I am disgusted to see her new Italian leather shoes are all scuffed and have a Sharpie (pen) mark on them so below is the bill for these replacing (sic).

The shoes were also scuffed on the sole. Picture: Ben Lack Photography

"As a designer you can imagine I do not want my child to look anything less than pristine."

Sarah sent an angry email to Nicola immediately.*Source:*Supplied

Sarah, from Wakefield in the UK defended her email after Wednesday's playdate with Nicola's three-year-old daughter Stacey.

Sarah, who recently got her FCUK tattoo covered up with one of a woman's face melting, added: "A lot of other people just get their kids' clothes from Primark. I don't mind handing a few pounds to them for their dresses.

"But Isabella's are usually Spanish boutique stuff. She's actually a model so I keep her in nice clothes and shoes all the time.

"These boots are important for her modelling work because they match her outfits.

"Nicola was in charge and she was looking after my child, so she's responsible for the damage."

Sarah claims as daughter Isabella is a model, it's important that her shoes and clothes are nice all the time. Picture: Ben Lack Photography*Source:*Supplied

It's a similar row to the one between Derek Walsh and another parent at his five-year-old son's school, who tried to fine the dad after his son missed a birthday party.

But bemused Nicola refuses to pay a penny towards the damage and yesterday branded Sarah's bill "a pile of nonsense".

Nicola, from Normanton, West Yorks, said: "I don't know what her problem is to be honest.

"She must have more money than sense if she's going to pay that much for a pair of shoes for her daughter and then complain when they get ruined.

"Kids are kids, they get messy, they ruin things, that's life.

"She needs to get over it because no amount of bills she sends me will make me pay for the shoes.

"I'd advise her next time to send her daughter out in wellies or if she wants to dress something up try Toys 'R' Us."

This article originally appeared on The Sun.

News Limited Copyright © 2017. All times AEDT (GMT +11).

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

B.C. boy with mystery broken bones has gene abnormality linked to condition that blocks all feelings of pain

LAURA KANE, THE CANADIAN PRESS | February 11, 2017 12:36 PM ET
More from The Canadian Press

A mother and her son from northern B.C., who can't be identified, pose for a photograph after being reunited in Vancouver, B.C., on Tuesday December 6, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl Dyck

VANCOUVER — A British Columbia boy who was seized twice by the Children's Ministry due to his mysterious broken bones has been found to have a rare gene abnormality linked to a condition that blocks all feelings of pain.

The five-year-old boy was returned to his parents last fall after doctors determined his unexplained fractures were not caused by abuse. Now, geneticists have found a variant in a gene linked to congenital insensitivity to pain, a disorder that can cause repeated broken bones.

Doctors have clinically diagnosed him with the condition based on his symptoms, and are still working to confirm a medical diagnosis through genetic testing. It's bittersweet news for his parents, who are relieved to finally have answers but fear the challenges ahead.

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

A mother and her son from northern B.C., who can't be identified, pose for a photograph after being reunited in Vancouver, B.C., on December 6, 2016. A British Columbia boy who was seized twice by the Children's Ministry due to his mysterious broken bones has been found to have a rare gene abnormality linked to a condition that blocks all feelings of pain. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl Dyck

“It’s been pretty emotional just thinking about his future, knowing that he may not be able to play sports or do any physical activity like that,” said his mother. “I think he’s going to have a hard time with that because he’s so active.”

There are also new concerns on the horizon — the mother is four months pregnant and has been told her baby has a 25 per cent chance of being born with the disorder, she said.

The mother and father cannot be named in order to protect the identity of the little boy, who cannot be identified as a former ward of the province.

In order to confirm a diagnosis of congenital insensitivity to pain, one would need to see two different variants in the gene, one from the mother and one from the father, said Michael Dorschner, who conducted the boy’s testing at the University of Washington’s Center for Precision Diagnostics.

However, only one variant inherited from the mom was found, so further testing is needed, he said.

We fear pain, but pain helps us learn to respect some things in our environment, to take precautions

Dr. Micheil Innes, an associate professor of medical genetics at the University of Calgary, said he has two young patients with congenital insensitivity to pain and it is so rare that he guessed the number of sufferers in Canada could be in the double digits.

Innes, who is not involved in the little boy’s case and was speaking generally, said symptoms are not limited to broken bones and include an inability to sweat, frequent fevers, repeated tongue-biting and an inability to feel heat or cold.

“We often think of pain in a negative way. We fear pain, but pain helps us learn to respect some things in our environment, to take precautions,” he said.

The mom said her son doesn’t have all the symptoms — he appears to feel heat and cold, rarely suffers fevers and doesn’t bite his tongue.

She had suspected autism, but it was recently ruled out with the assessment stating the boy is “very social” and “friendly and co-operative.”

Related

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Authorities thought a boy's parents were abusing him. But his broken bones were from a genetic disorder

The family's case has raised questions about possible systemic biases against aboriginal parents as well as health-care gaps in the north. Sixty per cent of children in care in B.C. are indigenous.

The First Nations couple from a small northern community first brought their son to hospital with a fracture in 2012 and continued to seek medical attention for his breaks, but he was only referred in 2015 to BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

Even after the referral, there were several delayed appointments. Last July, the ministry seized their two children, even though their eight-year-old daughter has never suffered a broken bone. The kids were returned and seized again in the fall.

But Bernard Richard, the province's child and youth advocate, said he reviewed the case and found no evidence of systemic bias. The ministry must err on the side of caution, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jonathan Hayward

"If something tragic had happened to that boy and the social worker had not intervened, and he had later died as a result of physical force, then obviously we'd be pointing the finger at the social worker," he said.

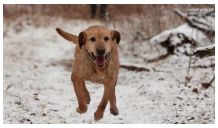
Once it became clear the boy's breaks were not caused by abuse, the ministry promptly returned the children, he added.

The Children's Ministry and BC Children's Hospital cannot speak about specific cases because of privacy reasons, but have said they act in the best interests of all children regardless of ethnicity.

Nathalie Bolduc, president of the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors, said it's common for parents of children with rare genetic disorders to be in a "diagnostic odyssey" for many years, especially those who live in a rural area.

"Unfortunately, it's not unusual," she said. "I think we need to make a better effort to provide better access to services and not keep genetics in this ivory tower."

LATEST CANADA VIDEOS



Blatchford: Sully the cadaver-sniffing dog

Christie Blatchford on Garland Trial Day 5

Raptors Pres and GM Ujiri, and Prime Minister Trudeau meet students affected by school shooting

Toddler's death was avoidable, fire chief says

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Topics: **Canada**, **News**, **British Columbia**, **Injuries And Traumas**, **Michael Dorschner**, **Micheil Innes**, **Science And Technology**, **Vancouver**

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Mum snaps spooky beast in 'haunted forest' which many believe is BIGFOOT

By Chris Adams 11:29, 12 JAN 2017 Updated 11:36, 12 JAN 2017 News mirror.co.uk

Mum snaps Bigfoot figure in Irish forest but others say it could be ghost of passenger killed in plane crash

The dog walker was freaked out when her furry friends sensed the creature lurking among the trees of woods thought to be haunted by a fatal plane crash

A mum was spooked out when her dogs alerted her to the outline of a furry creature many believe is BIGFOOT while strolling through a 'haunted' forest.

Maxine Caulfield said her mutts used their 'sixth sense' to seek out the creepy figure among the trees as they walked through Slieveanorra in County Antrim, Northern Ireland - rumoured to be haunted by a fatal plane crash.

Spooky tales have been told about Slieveanorra since October 1942, when a US Air Force B17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed into a mountain there, killing eight of the ten people on board.

But after showing others photos she'd taken of the suspicious shadow, people began likening its face to Bigfoot, a hairy creature said to inhabit forests in American folklore, rather than the ghost of a plane passenger.

Sinister ghostly figures found sitting in pews of boarded up church abandoned since WWII

Mum-of-one Maxine, 49, said: "I haven't got a clue what it is but when I saw it, it really freaked me out. It's not like anything I've ever seen before.

"The dogs are normally full of energy and never stop running but when we went through that part of the forest they just stopped still and stared in the same direction.

"It was as if they knew something was there. I couldn't see anything at the time but when I got home and showed people the pictures it was spooky.

"People were pointing out its face and saying it was Bigfoot. I've always been pretty open-minded about the paranormal. I don't disbelieve, and this has really reinforced my view that there could be something out there.

"The dogs were playing away in the snow but my German Shepherd's ears pricked up when she went through this section. It wasn't normal.

"When you zoom in it really does look the body of a beast. Along with all the other history and rumours about the place, it really makes you think."

Maxine has also discovered a mysterious wooden cross planted in the forest with the date 31/03/76 inscribed on it.

She walks her dogs - German Shepherd, Roxy, and miniature schnauzer, Charlie - weekly through the forest, around seven miles from her home in Cloughmills.

Spooky video 'shows ghostly spectre which sucks the blood of virgins' fleeing the scene of gang fight

Maxine said: "I honestly didn't realise what was there at the time. I take a lot of pictures when I'm out with the dogs and this time I'm glad I did.

"I couldn't see what the dogs were looking at. I kept thinking: 'Is somebody coming? Am I safe out here on my own?'

"I put it out of my mind really and didn't think any more of it but it was only when I sat down and had a proper look at it that I thought it was a bit freaky.

"It's quite a remote area and it's got some history with old Irish clans too. There's a memorial to the air crash and I've found a wooden cross with a date engraved on it.

"It all adds up to some odd things going on. I've never seen a shape like that one in the picture."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Alleged murder plot shakes Georgian Orthodox Church

yahoo.com

Tbilisi (AFP) - Georgia's Orthodox Church was rocked Monday after police announced the arrest of a priest over a suspected poisoning plot targeting a high-ranking Church figure.

Prosecutors in the Caucasus nation said they caught archpriest Giorgi Mamaladze with sodium cyanide on February 10 as he boarded a plane to Berlin, where Patriarch Ilia II was awaiting a gallbladder operation.

The country's chief prosecutor said in a statement that Mamaladze was in pre-trial detention on "suspicion of plotting to murder a high-ranking Church official".

The statement did not specify the target of the plot but the prime minister responded by ordering increased security for 83-year-old Ilia.

Mamaladze, who is director general of the Georgian Church's medical clinic, "had systematic contacts" with the patriarch, prosecutors said.

Ilia -- who has long suffered ill health -- successfully underwent the gallbladder operation in Germany on Monday, Georgian media reported.

The conservative Georgian Orthodox Church -- followed by more than 80 percent of the 4.5 million population -- is one of several distinct Eastern Orthodox Churches, which also include the Greek and Russian Churches.

Ilia II -- who has led the Church such since 1977 -- wields significant influence on Georgia's social and political life.

He oversaw a major revival of the Church after Georgia regained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Church was severely repressed during the Soviet era and Tsarist Russia's occupation of Georgia.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Museum ends Shia LaBeouf project, citing safety concerns

Updated 2:27 am, Saturday, February 11, 2017

sfgate.com

SFGATE http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Museum-ends-Shia-LaBeouf-project-citing-safety-10923351.php

Actor Shia LaBeouf has been arrested in New York City after an altercation with another man during a performance art project. The actor has been chanting the phrase, "he will not divide us," on a livestream since Donald Trump's first day as president. Police stated LaBeouf was arrested for pulling the scarf off a man, scratching his face in the process. They added he has been charged with a misdemeanor assault charge and is due to appear in court on April 4th.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Museum of the Moving Image announced Friday it has closed a performance art project involving Shia LaBeouf, citing "serious public safety hazards."

The project involved the actor and others chanting "He will not divide us" in front of a camera outside the museum since Donald Trump's first day as president three weeks ago. It was scheduled to last for four years.

The public was invited by LaBeouf and two collaborators to participate and the performances were live streamed around the clock.

But the museum said in a statement that the installation had become "a flashpoint for violence and was disrupted from its original intent." Museum officials added that they were proud the museum had launched the "engaging and thought-provoking digital art installation."

Last month, LaBeouf was arrested after an altercation. And a 21-year-old was arrested last week on assault charges after a participant said the man threw eggs on him and ran.

Police officers were assigned to the location 24 hours a day and, at one point, police filed a report after threats were made through the city's 311 non-emergency line that people were going to be shot.

On Friday, the hewillnotdivide.us website said the museum had "abandoned the project. The artists, however, have not." They did not elaborate on the site.

The scenes in front of the camera varied, sometimes scores of young people danced and clapped. Other times, the stream was quieter, capturing dog walkers checking out the camera up close or people showing up to play music.

LaBeouf and his performance art partners Nastja Säde Rönkkö and Luke Turner said on the project website that the meaning of the mantra "He will not divide us" should be "guided by the spirit of each individual participant."

Tax-exempt public charities, like the museum, are prohibited from engaging in partisan political activity.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Myra Hindley letters reveal she felt no remorse for five murders

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukSunday 22 Jan 2017 2:30 pm

Ian Brady and Myra Hindley murdered three children and two teenagers (Picture: Getty Images)

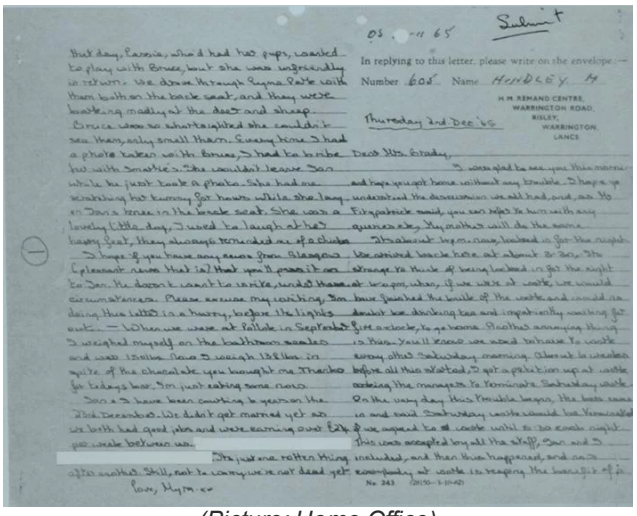
Disturbing Myra Hindley letter found after 52 years shows she had no guilt for murders

Child killer Myra Hindley showed not a shred of remorse for her five victims after she was arrested – a chilling letter she wrote to Ian Brady's mother has revealed.

Instead, she complained about the death of her dog and how prison would rob her the chance of marrying fellow Moors murderer, Brady.

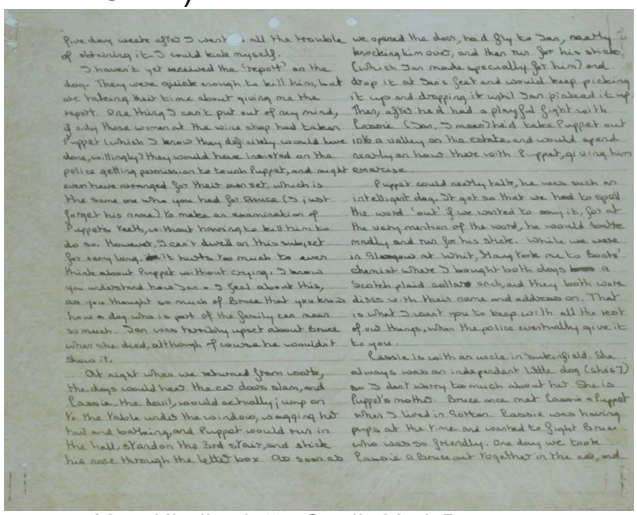
But just before lights-out, Hindley penned a thank-you note, while eating a chocolate bar that Mrs Brady brought her.

After 52 years, the letter has been uncovered in a long-lost Home Office file.



(Picture: Home Office)

The letter was uncovered after 52 years (Picture: Home Office)



Myra Hindley letter Credit: Mark Branagan

It was sent to Ian Brady's mother (Picture: Home Office)

Despite being on trial for the murder of three children and two teenagers, Hindley complained that her and Brady may have missed their chance to get married.

'It's just one rotten thing after another. Still not to worry, we're not dead yet.'

Myra believed to be posing by one of the children's graves with dog Puppet

Hindley, who died in 2002, also complained about her dog, Puppet, being put down at the vets.

The killers took a number of pictures posing with the dog beside the children's graves on Saddleworth Moor.

**Original source unknown This photo depicts Myra Hindley; girlfriend of Ian Brady. Together they had kidnapped, raped and murdered 5 children, one of which has never been found. Police obtained this photograph and noticed something... Unusual. Myra appears to have chosen this spot precisely for this picture, so the police thought it was a grave. They managed to find this spot on the Saddleworth Moor, in England. Upon digging, they found it was the grave of John Kilbride; a 12 year-old missing boy. Original source unknown*

To try and determine how long ago the pictures were taken, detectives had the animal put down so vets could examine the length of its teeth and compare them to the pictures.

She wrote: 'They were quick enough to kill him but are taking their time about giving me the report.

'One thing I can't put out of my mind if only those women at the wine shop had taken Puppet (which I know they would have done willingly) they would have insisted on the police getting permission to touch Puppet, and might even have arranged for their own vet to make an examination of Puppet's teeth, without having to kill him to do so.'

**Original source unknown Ian Brady and his mother Peggy Stewart.*

Ian Brady with his mother Peggy Stewart

Cold-hearted Hindley then moaned about being banged up by 3.30pm and how she could have had Saturday's off work.

She recalled 4pm as the time when she and Brady would normally have finished work and be drinking tea together, waiting for the 5pm finish at Millwards – a small chemicals firm on the outskirts of Manchester.

She continued: 'Another annoying thing is we used to have to work every other Saturday morning.

'About six weeks before all this started I got a petition up at work asking the managers to terminate Saturday work. On the very day this trouble began, the boss came in and said Saturday work would be terminated if we agreed to work till 5.30 each night.

'This was accepted by all staff, Ian and I included, and then this happened and now everybody at work is reaping the benefit of a five day week after I went to all the trouble of obtaining it. I could kick myself.'

What were the Moors Murders?

The couple buried their victims in the Moors (Picture: PA)

The Moors Murders horrified Britain in the Sixties – as Ian Brady, together with girlfriend Myra Hindley, killed five children between 10 and 17 in the Manchester area.

Some of the victims had been sexually abused before they were killed, with Brady cutting the throats of victims with knives.

(Pics-PA)

Victims were found in graves on Saddleworth Moor – although the body of one victim, Keith Bennett, remains undiscovered despite repeated searches.

Brady was diagnosed with schizophrenia and moved to Ashworth hospital in 1985.

Myra Hindley died in prison in 2002.

In one of her pleas for parole, Hindley wrote, 'Within months he [Brady] had convinced me that there was no God at all: he could have told me that the earth was flat, the moon was made of green cheese and the sun rose in the west, I would have believed him, such was his power of persuasion.'

The victims were:

Pauline Reade, 16
John Kilbride, 12
Keith Bennett, 12
Lesley Ann Downey, 10
Edward Evans, 17

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man is baffled by bizarre 'reflective UFO' he believes could be an alien ship

By Kara O'Neill 15:17, 10 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Mysterious shape-shifting UFO 'disguised as cloud' drifts through the sky over desert leaving experts baffled

The man said the cloud's surface appeared to be 'reflective' and couldn't explain what it might be

Thank you for subscribing!
Could not subscribe, try again laterInvalid Email

A man was convinced he'd spotted a cloud hiding an alien spaceship after he noticed the surface appeared to be 'reflective'.

Anthony Sakowski was baffled by his discovery, which he spotted in the sky while driving in Arizona.

He films the strange saucer-shaped cloud for over two minutes while driving along a country road.

Alongside the footage, Anthony wrote: "Strange cloud hiding UFO . Reflected above."

He added: "UFO reflected on haze above."

Anthony published the video on YouTube on January 6 although the exact date and time of the sighting is unknown.

The clip has now been viewed more than 5,400 times.

Most viewers were convinced that Anthony had simply spotted a lenticular cloud , which are stationary lens-shaped clouds and have often been mistaken for UFO sightings.

But UFO hunter Scott Waring, of UFO Sightings Daily disagreed, saying: "The UFO was noticed when the sun lit it up and caused a disk reflection above it on the clouds.

"Only a metal reflective surface could do this, and, as you see, the dark area of the cloud is the actual UFO."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

KJZZ MOBILE
LISTEN NOW
On Now -
Classic Jazz

Donate Subscribe

91.5 KJZZ

Subscribe Donate *Having Trouble with 91.5 FM?*

News Program Schedule Podcasts myKJZZ Inside KJZZ Contact Music

E-Member Login

Mysterious 'Space Capsule' Found In Arizona Desert

By Katherine Fritcke

Published: Monday, February 6, 2017 - 11:18am
Updated: Monday, February 6, 2017 - 11:27am

A mysterious object found off Interstate 10 in Casa Grande was not from outer space. But, it had many curious about why an apparent space capsule had fallen in the Arizona desert.

It looked just like the craft Major Nelson returns to earth in at the beginning of an episode of “I Dream of Jeannie.”

But when the Arizona Department Public of Safety went to investigate, they found a very elaborate piece of art made from the drum of a cement mixer.

DPS spokesman Quentin Mehr said the artist applied more than just a paint job to make it look authentic.

“This item had a parachute attached, so it looked like a space capsul that had fallen down. We don’t know who did it, but it’s there,” Mehr said.

DPS only has one clue about the artist. Under where the window hatch would be, it reads: Captain J. Millard.

Dept. Public Safety
@Arizona_DPS

Follow

It appears an artist got creative near Casa Grande and turned a cement truck drum into a space capsule! Caused a stir on #I10 this morning.

8:55 AM - 6 Feb 2017

380 557

Like this story? Support KJZZ Donate

Morning Edition

Tuesday at 5 a.m.

John Darnielle is a musician, known for his band the Mountain Goats. Now he is getting attention for writing novels. His latest is "Universal Harvester."

Google+

Please read our Contributor Confidentiality Policy and the KJZZ Ethics and Practices guidelines. KJZZ supports Equal Employment Opportunities and works against discrimination in employment. For more information, please see KJZZ's Employment and EEO Information page.

For questions or comments about this website, please contact the KJZZ webmaster. For general comments or questions see the Contact KJZZ page for a listing of contacts by topic. **Please note:** Station policy mandates that listeners who win on-air giveaways on this station are not eligible to win again for 30 days.

Email regarding NPR's coverage, ethics, and funding can be sent to the NPR Ombudsman, who maintains an informative web page. For comments or concerns regarding NPR programs, listeners with a general inquiry, visit NPR's contact form.

KJZZ is a service of Rio Salado College, and Maricopa Community Colleges.

Copyright© 2016 KJZZ/Rio Salado College/MCCCD

Florida Man Has Best Excuse Ever For Being Naked At Car Wash

huffingtonpost.com

Has anyone seen a pair of runaway pants?

01/25/2017 07:03 pm ET
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post

You've heard of the naked truth. But what about naked "alternative facts"?

That could describe the excuse offered by a Florida man accused of being naked at a car wash.

Police in Pensacola arrested 52-year-old Charles William Raulerson early Sunday after getting a call about a naked man in the car wash parking lot. Responding officers reported seeing Raulerson standing around without pants blaring music from his vehicle, according to the Pensacola News Journal.

When deputies asked Raulerson to put his clothes on, he gave a response worthy of any "alternative fact" dished out by the Trump administration: "They took off running by themselves without me."

Escambia County Jail

Deputies, suspicious that Raulerson possessed pants that could defy the laws of physics, asked him to sit in his car, according to the Palm Beach Post.

Raulerson then threatened an officer with a screwdriver, police said. When he tried to get out of his car again, the officer shocked him with a Taser stun gun, according to police.

Paulerson was charged with aggravated assault on an officer, a second-degree felony, according to WTSP.com. Jail records show he was held at the Escambia County Jail on a $500 bond.

It's unclear whether his pants got away.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Naked carpenter on trial after neighbour spotted him mixing cement in the buff

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukTuesday 7 Feb 2017 10:50 am

Carpenter Rob Jenner knows how to handle some wood (Picture: National)

A man is on trial for doing DIY in his birthday suit after a neighbour spotted him mixing cement while completely naked.

Frederick Black called police saying ‘it’s not right’ that Rob Jenner could wander around naked close to a primary school.

Jenner, 42, denies breaching a community protection notice and 13 public order offences, landing him in court.

The former soldier has previously admitted that he loves being naked while doing up his house and is proud of his buff body – but he does worry about splinters.

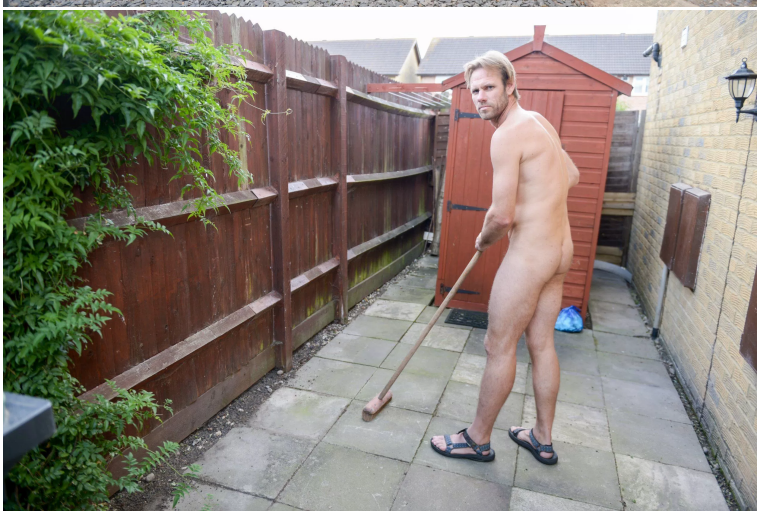
Frederick was on his way home from the shops when he saw Jenner naked and working in his front garden.

Jenner was working on his front garden (Picture: National)
Jenner is on trial for breaching a community protection notice (Picture: National)

He said: ‘Kids are walking around that area all the time, it’s right by a school. People don’t want to see that, it’s not right.’

Maidstone Magistrates’ Court on Monday heard from four witnesses whose reactions of Jenner’s nude DIY ranged from awkwardness to anger.

Severe cold alert as bitter wind sends temperatures plunging



Witness Michael Smith dropped his children off at the nearby primary school and was driving past when he saw the defendant completely naked leaning on a rake before they made eye contact and Jenner walked inside.

The court heard that, Michael then parked his car and banged on Jenner’s door while shouting: ‘Get out of the f*****g house.’

Is that a hammer in your pocket? (Picture: National)
Rob Jenner posing with his nail gun (Picture: National)

Jenner did not emerge and Michael drove off and apologised for his language to a neighbour who responded: ‘My husband has been wanting to do that for a long time.’

Prosecutor Paul Edwards told the court that the carpenter’s actions had caused alarm and distress to neighbours.

He said that Jenner must have known his neighbours would be angry because he took the step of making a sign.

Mr Edwards said: ‘He is not a naturist, he is an exhibitionist.’

A sign outside Jenner’s home in Eccles, Kent, said: ‘A naturist is working on this property, please do not take offence.’

Edwards is alleged to have caused alarm and distress to his neighbours (Picture: National)

Alex Davey, defending, said: ‘He accepts being naked on each occasion, he is a naturist and does not believe his behaviour caused harassment, alarm or distress.

‘In any case his behaviour is acceptable in accordance with his human rights.’

The mum-of-two told the court it was not nice to see and added: ‘Some people do think it’s quite funny but they don’t have to see it everyday.’

Community warden Debbie Foreman also said she felt uncomfortable after seeing Jenner crouched down in his front garden with his genitals covered by a work belt.

The trial continues.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Naked man arrested after bizarre rampage near Swedish Hospital

by KOMO Staff

komonews.com

KOMONEWS.com

Naked man arrested after bizarre rampage near Swedish Hospital

SEATTLE - A man is in custody after going on a bizarre rampage overnight around Swedish Hospital's First Hill campus, ramming vehicles with a pickup truck, smashing windows, blasting loud music and spray-painting a car's windows while naked, police said.

Drugs were believed to be a factor in the incident, which ended hours later following a standoff with a SWAT team.

The drama began at around 12:30 a.m. Monday as officers responded to a report of a possible impaired driver near Boren Avenue and Cherry Street, said Detective Mark Jamieson of the Seattle police.

As officers were responding to that incident, security personnel from Swedish Hospital reported that an erratically driven white pickup truck had somehow gained entry into the secured parking garage in the 1100 block of Madison Street.

The driver of the pickup reportedly rammed an exit gate, struck a parked car on the street, and then re-entered the parking garage. The pickup was recently reported as stolen.

The driver of the stolen truck then struck two other vehicles inside the garage, and responding officers found the suspect driving erratically in circles and up and down the exit ramps inside the garage, Jamieson said.

Officers deployed spike strips inside the garage in an attempt to stop him. The truck’s tires were flattened, but the suspect just kept driving around.

The suspect eventually parked the truck and turned up the stereo. Officers could see that the man was naked.

The suspect then grabbed a hammer and smashed out the windows of another vehicle inside the garage. He then jumped in that vehicle and spray-painted the windows in an effort to conceal himself, Jamieson said.

A SWAT team and police negotiators responded and attempted to talk with the suspect, but he ignored them.

At one point the suspect went back to the stolen pickup and tried to flee, but SWAT team officers used their vehicles to block the truck.

Officers finally caught the man outside of the truck at 4 a.m. They stunned him with a Taser and placed him under arrest.

The 33-year-old suspect was taken to the hospital and then later booked into the King County Jail for investigation of burglary, auto theft, possession of stolen property, malicious mischief, DUI and hit-and-run.

The incident remains under investigation, Jamieson said.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Naked man wanders into NC homes, spooks residents

myfox8.com

Posted 9:35 pm, December 29, 2016, by Web Staff

MOORESVILLE, N.C. – Residents in a Mooresville community are on high alert after a naked stranger walked into multiple homes.

WSOC reported that the alarming cases were reported on Mallardwood Drive two days before Christmas.

“It’s been a little tense since that happened,” resident Haley Pickens said.

A naked man walked through the back door of her house at 11 p.m. while her 2-year old and 11-year-old children were sleeping.

Pickens said her dog bit the intruder in the kitchen and chased him out of her house while she ran to check on her daughters.

After the man left the house, a stunned neighbor watched him cross the street, and that’s when neighbors said he went inside a second home.

In that house, neighbors told Channel 9 he was chased back outside. At that point, he ran behind a couple houses, climbed over a fence and disappeared.

Six days earlier, a naked man was spotted walking along Interstate 77 in Mooresville. It is unclear if that is the same person.

At this time, there’s no word on whether investigators have identified the man.

Online Public File • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy
• 2005 Francis St. High Point, NC 27263
• Copyright © 2016, WGHP
• A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Naked woman who stole deputy's truck in custody after chase

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 6, 2017

ELOY, Ariz. (AP) — A naked woman stole a sheriff's department pickup truck Thursday and led law enforcement officers on an estimated 70-mile high-speed chase on two Arizona highways before she was taken into custody, authorities said.

The unidentified woman was disrobed, disoriented and claimed she had been sexually assaulted when a Maricopa County sheriff's deputy responded to a 9 a.m. call about a naked woman at a gas station in Gila Bend along Interstate 8, authorities said.

The deputy put the pickup truck in park with the engine running as he tried to find the woman clothes in the gas station, authorities said. The woman then got into the vehicle and drove off.

The deputy jumped on the truck's running board before being knocked off. He was treated at a hospital for injuries on his right side and released, sheriff's Chief Deputy Ben Henry said.

The woman drove the stolen truck above 100 mph at times as she got onto Interstate 10 headed to Tucson, he said.

Arizona Department of Public Safety troopers and law enforcement authorities from Pinal County and Eloy put spike strips on the road that shredded at least one of the vehicle's tires. The chase ended near Eloy when the woman sideswiped a car on the freeway and struck a median.

The woman got out of the vehicle and wouldn't comply with orders, Henry said. Fearing that she might step into the roadway, authorities shot the woman in the legs with bean bags to subdue her before she was taken to a hospital for examination and evaluation.

Sheriff's investigators planned to talk to the woman about the sexual assault allegation, but Henry said she faces numerous charges in the vehicle theft incident.

The deputy had his body camera on when the incident began, and authorities have watched the gas station's surveillance video.

"He was just trying to get her clothed. You can see the concern," Henry said.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man decapitates wife with a sword then walks for five miles carrying her head

metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.ukSaturday 4 Feb 2017 8:40 am

He was pictured carrying her head (Picture: SNWS)

A farmer decapitated his wife then carried her severed head by the hair for five miles, after he allegedly found her 'making out' with another man.

Narayan Singh, 38, has been charged with murder after attacking 28-year-old Sarita with a sword in the middle of a field.

Terrified witnesses described how he marched to the nearest police station, attempting to justify himself by telling officers: 'My wife had broken my trust.

'This is the reason why I beheaded her. I had warned her twice before, but she wouldn't mend her ways.'

Singh, from Ghareli village in Ingoria, India, is due before the courts later this month.

Narayan Singh accused his wife of being unfaithful (Picture: SWNS)
Neighbours said he then handed himself in (Picture: SWNS)

Locals claim Singh had caught his wife with her lover twice before but let them go with a 'warning of dire consequence' if they hooked up again.

He took his barbaric revenge after spying on his wife for several days, neighbours said.

On January 30 he allegedly caught them together in a farmer's hut and then attacked in a jealous rage.

Singh has been remanded in custody before his court appearance in 14 days, police sources said.

He walked for five miles (Picture: SNWS)
He has been charged with murder (Picture: SWNS)

Investigating officer Vijay Khatri said: 'Narayan Singh had doubts on his wife's character – that she was having an extramarital affair with another man.

'On January 30, he caught his wife in the act with her lover and, in a fit of rage, beheaded her.

'In delusion, he kept roaming in the area with the head in his hand.'

Violence against women is said to be an 'epidemic' in India and there have been street protests calling for harsher punishments.

According to the Indian government's Crime Records Bureau, there were 309,546 crimes against women reported in 2013, including 33,707 rapes and 51,881 cases of kidnapping and abduction.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Nearly century-old streetcar tickets found in NYC firehouse

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 3, 2017

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City firefighter has made an unusual discovery, unearthing two nearly 100-year-old tickets for the city's long-defunct streetcar line at a firehouse in Manhattan.

WNBC-TV reports (http://bit.ly/2hNbW8D) the unidentified firefighter was searching for materials in the basement of Engine 7/Ladder 1 in the Tribeca area when he found an old tin cup containing two paper tickets dated Friday, Sept. 14, 1917.

The tickets are for the Eighth Avenue streetcar line, which opened in 1852 and was operated by the old New York Railways Co. The city replaced its streetcars with a bus system in 1936.

The firefighter who found the tickets says the firehouse's basement is also home to company journals that are almost 100 years old.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

New Hampshire has a new governor _ but only for 2 days

yahoo.com

AP KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated PressJanuary 4, 2017

New Hampshire Senate President Chuck Morse, left, joins House Speaker Shawn Jasper as he presides over the opening session in the House Chamber at the Statehouse, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, in Concord, N.H. For two days only, Senate President Morse is New Hampshire's governor. The Republican landed in the state's top job due to a unique political time, with Maggie Hassan resigning to become a U.S. Senator two days before Republican Gov.-elect Chris Sununu is officially sworn in. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

<img alt="" class="StretchedBox W(100%) H(100%) ie-7_H(a)" src="https://s.yimg.com/ny/api/res/1.2/SN6yyTriVvbteKak_IjTvw--/YXBwaWQ9aGlnaGxhbmRlcjtzbT0xO3c9ODAw/http://media.ze

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — New Hampshire has a new governor — for two days.

Republican Senate President Chuck Morse is in charge between former governor Maggie Hassan's swearing in as a U.S. Senator and Gov.-elect Chris Sununu's inauguration. He's approaching the short stint with a bit of sharp humor.

"Over the last four years, I thought I was the acting governor," he said, referencing Hassan's two terms. The pair often sparred over who deserved credit for the state budget and other policy accomplishments.

Morse officially became governor at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday and will hold the job until about noon Thursday, when Sununu is sworn in. It's a short stint, but Morse is getting all the treatment of a regular governor, including a security detail to pick him up each morning at his Salem home.

He was ceremoniously introduced as governor to kick off Wednesday's House session, sitting next to Speaker Shawn Jasper as members prayed, sang the national anthem and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Morse, who's been Senate president since 2013, said he has no big plans for his newfound power. He's opting to mostly remain in his third-floor Senate office, saying he's too superstitious to sit in the governor's chair. But he planned some ceremonial activities in the governor's chamber, including signing proclamations and taking photos with members from his home district.

While rare, the situation isn't unprecedented. Former Senate President Ralph Hough served as governor for about a week in 1993, when Judd Gregg left the post to become a U.S. senator. Other states have had similar — or stranger — situations. New Jersey once had five governors over eight days in 2002.

Morse said a surprising amount of preparation went into his two-day reign.

That prep included meetings with the Departments of Safety and Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as well as assigning the temporary security detail. It also involved meetings with the Senate's legal counsel to understand how Morse's Senate role would change. Senate President Pro Tempore Sharon Carson presided over Wednesday's brief session.

Morse said he's not looking to step on his successor's toes.

"I'm a firm believer that Chris Sununu is the next governor," he said.

But someone did mark a spot on the State House walls where Morse could be forever remembered.

Underneath a printed out headshot of Morse taped to a second-floor wall were the words, "The Future Site of the Portrait of Interim Governor Chuck Morse."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

New book spurs call for fresh probe of Emmett Till lynching

yahoo.com

AP JAY REEVES
Associated PressFebruary 8, 2017
New Book Sheds Light on Emmett Till Lynching
Associated Press Videos

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The horrific 1955 Mississippi slaying of Emmett Till, which helped trigger the modern civil rights movement, should be re-investigated now that a key witness is quoted as saying she lied about what the black teen said and did before he was lynched, Till's relatives say.

Two of Till's cousins, Wheeler Parker and Deborah Watts, said a renewed probe of Carolyn Donham's role could settle lingering questions. Among them: Whether an as-yet unidentified person, possibly a woman, was with Till's killers the night he was abducted.

Now 77, Parker has a particular interest in the case: He was there when his 14-year-old cousin from Chicago violated Southern racial taboos of the time by whistling at Donham, then a 21-year-old white woman working at a country store in rural Mississippi. "He did whistle, for sure," Parker told The Associated Press in an interview this week.

Till was later beaten and shot, and his mutilated body was found weighted down with a cotton gin fan in the Tallahatchie River. During the suspects' trial, Donham claimed Till also made sexual advances and grabbed her hand, neither of which Parker said ever happened.

"I don't know what else they could investigate," Parker said. "(But) if they could bring more truth, I'd say investigate."

A new book by author and historian Timothy B. Tyson says Donham told him a decade ago in an interview that she wasn't telling the truth with her claims of sexual advances.

"That part's not true," the book quotes Donham as saying.

Her first husband and his half-brother were acquitted of murder in Till's killing, but both subsequently claimed responsibility in a paid magazine interview.

"We know that she has admitted that she lied, and we know that is part of the reason Emmett is no longer with us," said Watts, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. "If there is any chance to reopen the case, I hope they will take this opportunity to do it now."

Tyson, a Duke University scholar whose book "The Blood of Emmett Till" came out last week, told AP that Donham broke her decades-long silence during an interview in 2008; Tyson said he didn't publish the account earlier because an author's timeline is different from that of a reporter.

Now 82, Donham lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has not responded to interview requests by AP.

Till's body was found in Tallahatchie County, where District Attorney John Champion said his office isn't investigating. Any false testimony from 1955 could be hard to prosecute because of Mississippi's two-year statute of limitations on perjury, he said.

Dewayne Richardson, the district attorney in Leflore County where Till was abducted, declined to comment.

Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood said he "will do all the law allows to make sure justice is done." But he wouldn't comment on any investigation.

The U.S. Justice Department said it's aware of Tyson's book but declined further comment.

Justice closed a renewed investigation of Till's slaying in 2006, and a county grand jury declined to issue a manslaughter indictment against Donham in 2007. That same year, Congress approved the Emmett Till Act to provide funding and staff to re-examine civil rights cold cases.

After Till's mother insisted on an open-casket funeral, revealing how her son had been mutilated, public outcry helped propel the civil rights movement. Three months later, Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama — an act she said was partly inspired by Till's murder. The subsequent Montgomery bus boycott made a recognized leader out of a then-unknown minister named Martin Luther King Jr.

"What was done to Emmett Till was a crime against humanity. It really shocked the conscience of the world, the sheer brutality," said Paula Johnson, co-director of Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University.

Donham, known as Carolyn Bryant at the time, took the stand in September 1955 in the murder trial of her husband Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, in Till's slaying.

With jurors outside the courtroom during a mid-trial hearing, Carolyn Bryant was sworn in and testified that a "nigger man" she didn't know entered the store and stopped at a candy counter.

Bryant testified that Till grabbed her hand and then grasped her around the waist, saying "You don't need to be afraid of me" before using an obscenity and mentioning something he had done "with white women before."

Moments later, outside, came the whistle, she said.

"Did you have any white men anywhere around there to protect you that night?" Carlton asked.

"No," she answered. She added: "I was just scared to death."

However, the judge ruled her entire testimony inadmissible, meaning jurors never heard it. An all-white jury acquitted the two men even without it. Later, both men told Look magazine they killed Till.

Both Roy Bryant and Milam are dead, and no one else was charged despite evidence at least one other person — possibly a woman — was present during Till's abduction.

Till's great-uncle Moses Wright testified during the trial that Milam and Bryant abducted his nephew at gunpoint and headed toward a car parked outside the house, asking a question of someone who was inside.

"They asked if this was the boy, and someone said, 'Yes,'" Wright testified, indicating it was someone with a "lighter voice than a man's."

The two men left with Till, whose body was found days later. The person Wright said he heard speaking from inside the car was never identified.

Watts said she wonders who else was in the car that night, but there's no way to say without an investigation.

"However that information is acquired, it's necessary," she said.

___

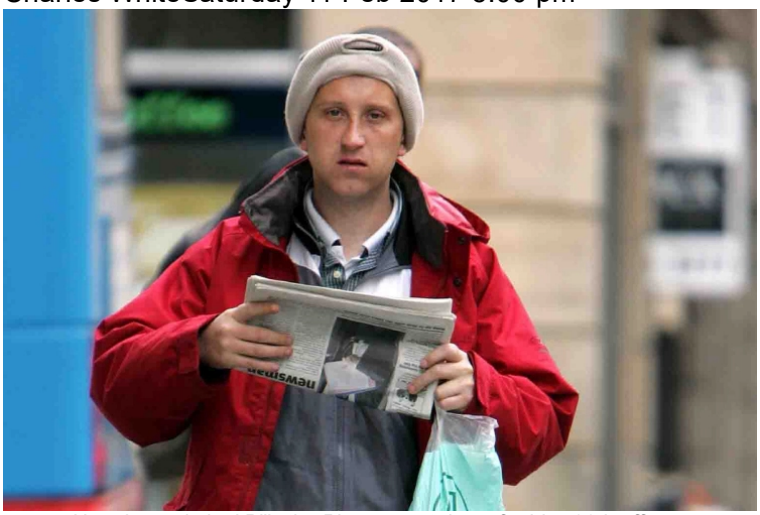
AP writers Jeff Amy in Jackson, Mississippi, and Allen G. Breed in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Notorious criminal Billy the Pigeon sent down for his 430th offence

metro.co.uk

Charles WhiteSaturday 11 Feb 2017 5:00 pm



The thief is apparently 'notorious' in the North East (Picture: Iain Buist/ncjMedia)

Notorious criminal Billy the Pigeon sent down for his 430th offence

A criminal so prolific he is known as 'Billy the Pigeon' has returned to jail after admitting his 430th offence.

William Frederick Armstrong, who was dubbed Newcastle's biggest criminal, began a life of crime in 1996.

'Billy' who was named after a father who kept pigeons, was sent to jail after stealing razor blades and whiskey, then raiding a newsagent.

Branded a 'notorious' burglar by local police, the 41-year-old was sent to prison less than a month after he was last released.

For his 430th offence he swiped whiskey from Marks & Spencer and took £66 razors from Wilkinson's before returning to nab more razors worth £49.50.

'Billy' was sent back to jail at Newcastle Magistrates Court (Picture: Google)

'Billy' was sent back to jail at Newcastle Magistrates Court (Picture: Google)

The prosecution told the court that four days after the incident he took £15 from a staff member's purse at a newsagent.

In April, Newcastle Police neighbourhood inspector, Nicola Wearing, was tough when she commented on the criminal.

She said: 'Armstrong is a notorious and prolific burglar who at times can be a one man crime wave.

'He has caused misery for residents and businesses across Newcastle for years and yet again he has been jailed for committing crimes in the city centre.

'Armstrong is a menace who's been arrested countless times over the years.'

Apparently battling a drug problem, with a lack of access to benefits after prison, he was jailed for 12 weeks and ordered to pay £81 compensation.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

News anchor sets off Alexa devices around San Diego ordering unwanted dollhouses - CW6 San Diego

cw6sandiego.com

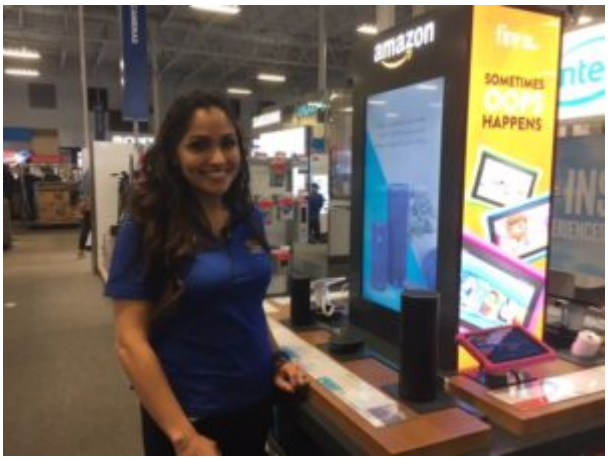
January 5, 2017 4:54 PM

by Carlos Correa

SAN DIEGO – Shh! you may want to turn down your television set because Alexa the internet-connected home assistant device may be listening.

The Amazon Echo system which does everything from getting your weather report to ordering more laundry detergent can also do some things you don't want it to.

When it comes to answering those tough questions or getting that extra help around the house, Alexa, the voice service that powers Amazon Echo is just a voice-command away.



bestbuy

Meyali Sanchez helps sell the system at Best Buy and even uses it at home.

"She is kind of like my little right hand. So for example if we're cooking we like to try new recipes, once a week we like to try something new," she said.

Alexa adapts to speech patterns and vocabulary. She can control your music and video library, set an alarm, control the thermostat, and even turn off the lights and its keeping local retail stores busy.

The device is convenient, but it's also raising concerns over security and privacy.

"These devices don't recognize your specific voice and so then we have the situations where you have a guest staying or you have a child who is talking and accidentally order something because the device isn't aware that it's a child versus a parent," said Stephen Cobb, senior security researcher for ESET North America.

Which is exactly what happened today during CW6 in the morning when Jim Patton and Lynda Martin were talking about a child who accidentally bought a dollhouse and four pounds of cookies

"I love the little girl, saying 'Alexa ordered me a dollhouse,'" said Patton.

As soon as Patton said that, viewers all over San Diego started complaining their echo devices had tried to order doll houses. It's a common problem experts say can be avoided.

"All of these devices which record the internet of things will have some sort of website control, some sort of setting, sometimes the setting is on the device that is communicating. So you need to go into these settings and look at what they are, and what you can change," said Cobb.

Cobb says the Federal Trade Commission is already looking into voice-command devices and toys to make sure the technology is safe and secure. For now, he recommends do your research to

img_1007

keep your personal information controlled and protected.

“Down the road the technology will be more sophisticated where it will be able to identify certain individuals and register people can access it,” he said.

Amazon says shopping settings can be managed via its Alexa app, including turning off voice purchasing and creating a confirmation code before any order.

The company also says any “accidental” physical orders can be returned for free.

Have questions or a story idea for CW6’s Carlos Correa? Stay connected with him on twitter: @carloscorrea2 or on facebook: carlos correa

© 2017 CW6 San Diego.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Nigeria rice 'contaminated, not plastic' - NAFDAC - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC • 30 December 2016

Each bag of rice weighed 25kg (55lb)

Lab tests on a consignment of rice seized by Nigerian customs officials show that the product is "contaminated" but not plastic, the National Agency For Food and Drugs (Nafdac) says.

The rice contained bacteria "above permissible limits", a senior Nafdac official said.

Customs officials' claims that the rice seized in Lagos last week was "plastic" sparked confusion and official denials.

The health minister intervened, saying there was "no evidence" for the claims.

Tests on samples of the rice showed that it was "unwholesome for human consumption", exceeding the maximum limit for bacteria including "Coli form", Nafdac said in a statement.

The Nigerian customs service, speaking at the same press conference, said that it had acted on "credible intelligence" that "large consignments of plasticized rice were.... to be shipped from the Far East to Africa".

Regardless of the outcome of the lab tests, intelligence still indicated that "several metric tonnes of expired and dangerous rice are still lying in wait at warehouses in neighbouring countries", with the Nigerian market the ultimate destination, customs chief Ibrahim Ali told media.

Rice is Nigeria's staple food and it is a tradition for people to give bags of rice as a gift during the Christmas period.

Copyright © 2016 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Nine out 11 members of unique family are dwarfs due to rare genetic condition

By Statabdi Chakrabarti 20:34, 30 JAN 2017 Updated 02:38, 31 JAN 2017 News mirror.co.uk

Ram Raj Chauhan's family once consisted of 21 people - 18 of whom suffered from the Achondroplasia condition

A rare genetic condition has made nine of the 11 members of a family dwarfs .

Ram Raj Chauhan's clan once consisted of 21 people - 18 of whom suffered from a genetic condition called Achondroplasia which causes short limbed dwarfism.

Achondroplasia is the most common form of disproportionate dwarfism, and is characterised by a normal sized torso and short limbs.

Ram Raj, 52, originally had seven sisters and four brothers, with eight of the 11 siblings suffering from the condition.

But some of them have passed away, including his elder brother, Prithvi Raj.

Ram Raj now lives with ten of his family members in the Old City in Hyderabad, India.

Nine of them have the condition, making them the largest dwarf family in the city.

Their condition attracts a lot of attention, much of it unwanted.

Curious looks, verbal jibes and taunts are a common occurrence when the family steps out.

Ram Raj explained: "If we go out, people crowd around us and ask us strange questions like, 'Why are you so short?', 'Where are you from?'. Everyone teases us."

There are health issues as well.

Due to the shortness of their legs, walking can become a problem.

Ram Raj explained: "After a certain age, the legs become weak. I have seen my grand father and my father face this, but they still managed to walk properly.

"But I have difficulty in walking and my younger brother can't walk without help. Same with two of my sisters."

Ram Raj works as a 'Marriage Welcomer', where he dresses up and welcomes guests to weddings, but finding employment has proved challenging for the family.

He said: "No-one was willing to give me a job. I have faced a lot of problems because people look at me and say, 'How will you manage?'

"I work at my relative's grocery store when I don't have the wedding work to do."

His 27-year-old daughter Ambika wants to be an accountant but as she also suffers from this condition, she has also found it difficult to find work.

She said: "In the future I want to become an accountant but this will only be possible if I'm able to get a job.

"People tell me that because I'm short, that's why I'm unable to get a job."

The other members of the family who are of short stature, including Ram Raj's brothers and sisters, also find it very difficult to get steady work.

He said: "My younger brother works in a telephone booth and my elder brother's wife is a tailor. We manage this way."

Ram Raj believes life is particularly tough for the females in his family.

He said: "It is still ok for the male members of the family. But what about the women in my family who have this condition? Life is much more difficult for them."

Ram Raj's wife was of normal height but sadly passed away in 1993 while she was seven months pregnant with their third child.

Ram Raj says that even though people laugh at them, and the condition makes it difficult to travel, get married and lead a regular life, the family believes God has given them this condition because they are special.

He said: "My father once said that this is the dwarf incarnation of the Lord. People may laugh, but we shouldn't feel bad about it."

"So many people have teased me and other members of the family.

"But if someone is sad and, by looking at us they get to laugh, it's God's will that we are the ones making them laugh."

"I have two daughters," says Ram Raj. "I try and make them understand by saying that this is their duty.

"And you can make it work. God is with you."

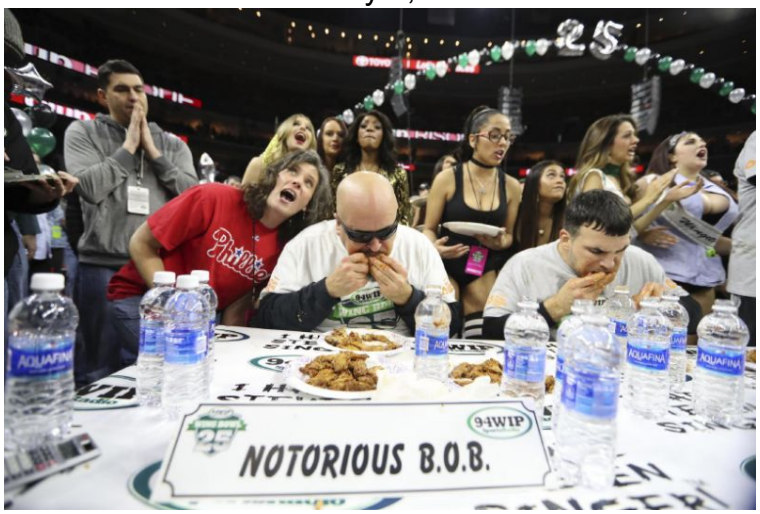
- © 2016 MGN Limited

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

'Notorious B.O.B' downs 409 wings to reign at Wing Bowl

yahoo.com

Associated PressFebruary 3, 2017



Bob "Notorious B.O.B." Shoudt, left, takes part in the Wing Bowl on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017 in Philadelphia. Shoudt choked down 409 chicken wings to become the finger-licking champion of Philadelphia's Wing Bowl. The morning eating ordeal draws boozy spectators who tailgate beforehand outside the city's sports arena to watch flamboyant contestants and suggestively-clad women known as Wingettes. This year, rapper Coolio performed between rounds. (David Swanson/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bob "Notorious B.O.B." Shoudt choked down 409 chicken wings to become the finger-licking champion of Philadelphia's Wing Bowl.

His winning finish Friday was 20 wings less than Molly Schuyler inhaled last year to take the championship title.

But Schuyler won a special, five-minute race this year against Bill "El Wingador" Simmonds after downing 95 wings.

The morning eating ordeal draws boozy spectators who tailgate beforehand outside the city's sports arena to watch flamboyant contestants and suggestively-clad women known as Wingettes. This year, rapper Coolio performed between rounds.

Shoudt took home $10,000, a Hyundai Santa Fe SUV and Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Even with the slogan "if you heave, you leave," the event included some romance. One contestant proposed to his girlfriend after he was ejected from the eat-off. She said "yes."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Notorious yellow car vandalised in Bibury - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC

- 4 February 2017
- From the section Gloucestershire

Peter Maddox parks his banana-coloured car outside his 17th Century cottage on Arlington Row

An "ugly" yellow car blamed for ruining tourists' photographs in a picturesque Cotswold village has been targeted by vandals.

The word "move" has been scratched into the bonnet of the Vauxhall Corsa, which is parked outside owner Peter Maddox's cottage in Arlington Row, Bibury.

Panels on the car have also been scratched and the driver's side window and rear windscreen have been smashed.

Mr Maddox could face a £6,000 repair bill, The Telegraph has reported.

However, the defiant 84-year-old said if the car was too expensive to repair, he would buy a replacement - in lime green.

His daughter-in-law, Marie Kraus, said: "Peter is understandably upset at the loss of his car and his independence, but he is also very fond of his lovely yellow car.

"Everyone in the village is very supportive. It is horrible to think whoever has done this has come out of their way down this little road to do something like this. It will be a struggle to get another car.

"It will leave Peter out of pocket."

In 2015, a photo of the car was posted by Lee McCallum on Twitter with the comment: "Picture postcard street photobombed by ugly little yellow car."

Afterwards, numerous visitors to the village took to Twitter claiming the car "ruins" the view and is a "shot spoiler".

Image copyright SWNS.com
Image caption

Bibury, near Cirencester in Gloucestershire, was once described by William Morris as "the most beautiful village in England".

The National Trust-owned cottages of Arlington Row are featured on the inside cover of the British passport and are some of the most photographed dwellings in the country.

Image copyright SWNS.com
Image caption
Copyright © 2017 BBC.

Image copyright SWNS.com

Nun receives death threats after saying Virgin Mary had sex with Joseph

metro.co.uk

Nicole Morley for Metro.co.ukFriday 3 Feb 2017 12:47 pm

Lucia Caram has received death threats for her controversial comments (Picture: Twitter/Lucia Caram)

A nun has caused outrage by claiming the Virgin Mary had sex with her husband.

Sister Lucia Caram said: 'I think that Mary was in love with Joseph and that they were a normal couple, and the normal thing is to have sex.

If you find the sound of people eating grotesque there could be something wrong with you

'It's hard to believe and to take in. We've stuck with rules that we have invented without reaching the true message.'

And then she talked about her own sex life (or lack of it).

Mary may not have been a virgin, according to the nun (Picture: Getty)

The Dominica nun, 51, became a daytime telly star in Spain with a cooking show sharing traditional convent recipes.

Sister Lucia, who has lived in a Catalan covent in Manresa for 26 years, has more than 180,000 followers on Twitter.

And the Argentinian raised more eyebrows by discussing her views on sex to the audience of Cuatro show Chester in Love.

'Sex is a way of expressing feelings and love and forms a part of all people,' she said.

'The Church has treated the subject as dirty and secret but I think it is a blessing'.

Asked if she had sexual needs and what she did about them, the nun replied: 'Just as I told you that I have never had sex and am a virgin, I can tell you that I do not masturbate either.'

There you have it.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Ex-Argentine leader Fernandez indicted, tied to nuns and guns scandal yahoo.com

REUTERS
Reuters

By Hugh Bronstein
December 27, 2016

**

Former Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner waves to supporters as she leaves a Justice building in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 13, 2016. REUTERS/Marcos Brindicci

By Hugh Bronstein

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Former Argentine President Cristina Fernandez was indicted on Tuesday on charges she ran a corruption scheme with a public works secretary who was arrested in June while trying to stash millions of dollars in a convent.

A federal judge accused them and other officials of the Fernandez administration of crimes "including the deliberate seizure of funds principally meant for public road works."

Corruption charges have long swirled around Fernandez and her husband and predecessor, the late Nestor Kirchner. She denies wrongdoing and accuses Argentina's current leader, Mauricio Macri, of using the courts to persecute her.

The country was riveted in June when Fernandez's former public works secretary, Jose Lopez, was arrested while tossing bags stuffed with millions of dollars over the walls of a Catholic convent on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

A gun-toting Lopez started hurling the money into the Our Lady of Fatima convent when the elderly nuns inside were slow to answer the door in the early morning hours of June 14, according to a neighbor who witnessed what happened and called 911.

A surveillance video shows the nuns finally welcoming Lopez and accepting the cash while paying little attention to the automatic rifle he had placed by the convent door.

Lopez and his direct boss, former Planning Minister Julio De Vido, were indicted along with Fernandez on Tuesday.

The alleged skimming of road projects took place in the Patagonian province of Santa Cruz, where Fernandez lives.

The ruling said the offenses took place until Dec. 9, 2015, Fernandez's last day as president after eight years in office. No arrest warrant has been issued for Fernandez, and Lopez is already in jail on money laundering charges.

In May Fernandez was indicted for "unfaithful administration to the detriment of public administration." During her administration, according to the charges, the central bank took money-losing positions in the futures market just before a widely expected devaluation of the peso currency.

Fernandez, head of the leftist faction of the Peronism party umbrella, is revered by millions of Argentines for her generous welfare programs. She is reviled by others, who accuse her of wrecking Argentina's economy, Latin America's third biggest, with profligate state spending and heavy-handed trade and currency controls.

(Additional reporting by Maximiliano Rizzi; Editing by Steve Orlofsky)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Russian region debates Nutcracker 'occult' row - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 17 January 2017

The authorities in a major region of Siberia are to discuss accusations by a local archbishop that The Nutcracker ballet is not a children's Christmas treat but rather a "work of the occult".

Novosibirsk Governor Vladimir Gorodetsky has told reporters they're welcome to attend a round table on the comments by Metropolitan Tikhon, who also thinks the nutcracker that comes to life in the ballet is a "prince shape-shifter", Tass news agency reports.

The archbishop made his remarks last week at the premiere of a Christmas-themed opera written by the wife of a local priest, which he said "better reflects our traditions in marking the birth of Jesus Christ". Russia celebrates Christmas in January because of differences between its church calendar and that of Western Christianity.

The director of Novosibirsk's Opera and Ballet Theatre, which is staging both the Christmas opera and The Nutcracker, has said he won't be dropping the ballet. Vladimir Kekhman instead suggested that the archbishop was only joking, and accused the media of "stirring itself up into a frenzy" whenever the Orthodox Church comments on the arts. "The devil is the father of lies," he warned Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper.

Metropolitan Tikhon has a penchant for musical criticism, and it has had consequences in the past. Two years ago, he accused the same theatre of desecrating Christian symbols in a controversial staging of Wagner's opera Tannhauser, and even the official Vesti TV news programme has dubbed the latest row "Tannhauser 2".

A court ruled at the time that the production hadn't broken the blasphemy law, but the staging was dropped and the director sacked after a round table discussion by figures from the Church, culture ministry and regional authorities.

His replacement was one of the few leading theatre heads to condemn Tannhauser as "offensive" to his religious sensibilities - the current director, Vladimir Kekhman.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Odd Fellows Skeletons Lurk in Closets and Attics Across America

cultofweird.com

By Charlie Hintz on January 1, 2017

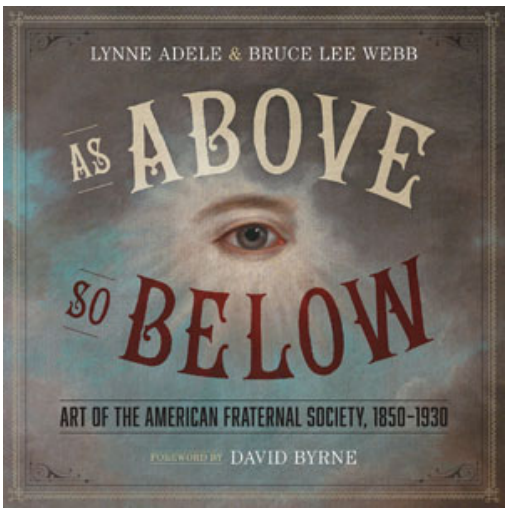
The decline of Odd Fellows membership throughout much of the 20th century led to abandoned ceremonial coffins and unidentified human remains.

An Odd Fellows member from the 1800s who donated his remains for lodge rituals, "George" resides at the historic Odd Fellows Home in Liberty, MO, now home to the Belvoir Winery.

The Odd Fellows, like many fraternal organizations, are shrouded in secrecy and steeped in esoteric symbolism. Though they were a charitable staple of many communities throughout America for much of the 19th and 20th centuries, whose purpose was to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan," little was known about what was happening behind closed doors.

The first Odd Fellows lodges were documented in London in 1730. The fraternity spread to America when the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was founded in Baltimore in 1819. Industrialism after the Civil War brought with it the "Golden Age of Fraternalism" when as many as 40% of the adult population in America belonged to a fraternal order. The Great Depression and other contributing factors eventually put an end to that, though, when membership was no longer a luxury many could afford. Years of declining memberships saw many Odd Fellows chapters across the country closing their doors.

That's when people started finding skeletons in closets, attics, and beneath floorboards of defunct lodges, cryptically emblazoned with the letters FLT inside three interlocking rings. Were these the remains of members who didn't pay their dues? Were the Odd Fellows robbing graves? Was it ritual human sacrifice?



Art of the American fraternal society

As Above, So Below: Art of the American Fraternal Society, 1850-1930

From the Knights Templar, formed around 1119 AD, to modern day Freemasons and other fraternal orders, their philosophies and practices have always been closely guarded. Images of beehives, peculiar handshakes, the all-seeing Eye of Providence, and various macabre reminders of our ephemeral nature such as skulls and coffins adorn their walls and regalia. Rumors abound of rituals involving bizarre pageantry performed by none other than upstanding and respected citizens, business owners, and politicians, though few have ever actually witnessed them. Members pledged to "forever conceal, and never reveal."

But the secrets and obscure imagery weren't intended to be frightening and sinister. They represented various principals and teachings that, in the early days, were used to protect the order's resources from outsiders who might try to take advantage of them.

Initiation into the Odd Fellows, the "poor man's Masonry," involved a ceremony in which the pledge would come face-to-face with a skeleton in a candle-lit room to contemplate their mortality. Modern ceremonies use paper mache skeletons, but in the early days they used real human remains. As lodges closed throughout much of the 20th century, these skeletons were often abandoned and forgotten in the buildings where they had served in

candle-lit induction rites for decades. The result is a bizarre and ongoing phenomenon of unsuspecting (and sometimes horrified) people unearthing human skeletons from dark crannies of old buildings around the country.

Like everything else needed to operate a lodge, complete skeletons could be ordered from a catalog. Who the bones belonged to or where they came from, however, remains a mystery. Some skeletons have been found with cleanly sawed craniums and articulated with wire, suggesting they underwent autopsy and were then medically prepared for educational purposes. Some lodges have legends about a member donating his remains to the order. Anthropologists are typically called in to determine age, race, and gender. Once authorities are confident it's just another dusty old Odd Fellows skeleton rather than, say, some long forgotten cold case, then comes the next dilemma: What to do with 150-year-old unidentified human remains?

Digging Up Odd Fellows Skeletons

Some states have laws governing the possession of human remains, so undocumented bones must be confiscated. In some cases, they are donated to local funeral homes where they are stored indefinitely. Other times, the community may choose to bury them, display them, or they end up in private collections and Halloween displays.

When an Odd Fellows skeleton turns up, the search to unravel its mysterious origins tends to uncover some fascinating bits of history. For those who ended up spending their afterlife in the closet of an Odd Fellows lodge, their stories continue long after their death.

Saint Clair, PA, 1976

Pharmacist David Buchanan purchased the former Odd Fellows lodge beside his shop. During renovations contractors found a mahogany coffin beneath a false floor in a closet on the second level. The coffin had the tell-tale three links metal insignia. Inside, they found an articulated human skeleton with its jaw and fingers wired so they could move.

Buchanan displayed the skeleton in his shop for a while, but what happened to it after that? According to this page, it remained there for many years, tucked away in an upstairs closet.

Pittsburgh, PA, 1982

Scene from Dawn of the Dead, 1978. via Halloween Love

Marilyn Wick, owner of a chain of Costume World shops, purchased the inventory of Pittsburgh-based Maier's in the early 1980s. Among the costumes and various Halloween props workers found a glass-topped coffin. They called Wick up, fearful, explaining that it contained a real corpse. They refused to touch it. The body appeared

to be mummified, with dried, tattered skin. Despite its grotesque appearance, a doctor in the family assured Wick it was fake.

The day she put it in the window for rent, it caught the attention of an off-duty police officer who wasn't so was a bit more apprehensive. He had it removed for examination, and the Allegheny County coroner made an unusual discovery: The skin was fake, but beneath it were real bones belonging to a woman in her 30s who died about 100 years prior.

The owner of Maier's, a man named Larry Wintersteller, had purchased the skeleton about 10 years earlier. He was told it was used in an Odd Fellows lodge for initiation rituals before the chapter folded. When George Romero was filming Dawn of the Dead in Pittsburgh in 1977, special effects master Tom Savini rented the skeleton from Wintersteller believing it was a medical teaching tool. He covered it in a layer of fake skin using latex, cotton, and Rice Krispies for use as a background corpse on set.

The coroner deemed the use of the skeleton for display and entertainment improper, and ordered the remains to be cremated. Wick filed a suit to get them a proper burial. She eventually won, and the remains were laid to rest in an unmarked grave in Mount Lebanon Cemetery on March 19, 1983.

In 2014, filmmaker William Sanders uncovered the story while working on his film Road Trip of the Dead. Sanders dubbed the unknown woman "Dawn Doe" and located the unmarked grave. He then set out to raise money for a marker. Word spread quickly, and when Wick heard about it, she personally donated the remaining amount to the cause.

Bellevue, ID, 1999
An Odd Fellows skeleton was found in the drawer of a built-in wardrobe of the Bellevue lodge's second floor. Locals said the Odd Fellows used to hang the skeleton in the window during Halloween. A 92-year-old member of the Bellevue chapter confirmed a story that the skeleton belonged to a Chinese man who drowned in the nearby Big Wood River. The bones were picked clean by birds, and eventually sold or given to the lodge.

Warrenton, VA, 2001
An electrician was working on an old Odd Fellows lodge when he discovered a box containing human remains in a space between two walls. "Jane Doe Odd Fellow," as the skeleton was called, was covered in a white shroud. It had "leathery ribs" and was stored with ceremonial white candles. Police got a warrant and seized the remains to be studied by state medical examiners.

Houston, MO, 2003

When a children's competitive cheerleading team needed a place to practice, parents rented a defunct Odd Fellows lodge downtown. They found three coffins inside. One contained a plastic skeleton, another a "ceramic-like" torso painted to look like an embalmed corpse. But the third, a child-sized coffin, contained a white cloth mask and real bones held together with black twine.

The county coroner was called in to take a look. Dentition, or lack thereof, as well as other factors, indicated the bones were elderly. There were no signs of trauma, so he ruled out foul play. Ethnicity was difficult to establish, but ingrained dirt meant this skeleton, unlike those ordered from medical supply companies, had once been buried.

Canandaigua, NY, 2003
One Halloween night an officer walking his beat was checking to make sure shop keepers of downtown Canandaigua had locked up for the night. When he reached an Odd Fellows lodge then being used as a bingo hall, the door opened to his touch. He and another officer went inside to investigate, where they found a skeleton in a white coffin in a storage closet among Halloween decorations. Since it was Halloween, they thought nothing of it. 6 years later the same officer responded to an anonymous report of human remains, finding himself inside that same closet. Examining the bones closer this time around, he noted it didn't seem to

be wired together like the typical medical specimen. He described the remains, known by lodge members as “Hector,” as still having tendons and arteries intact. A four month investigation determined the 1800s skeleton was not the result of foul play.

It was stored by a funeral home for five years until a local nurse decided to use her economic stimulus check in 2008 to give the remains a proper burial with a headstone that read “Known only to God.” Recent bans on smoking in public buildings had drastically impacted attendance at the bingo hall, so the Odd Fellows were unable to contribute to the burial.

Scio, OR, 2011

Odd Fellows coffin with bones inside found in Oregon

While cleaning out a closet full of old log books and ceremonial robes in an old lodge, the 16-year-old daughter of a Rebekahs Lodge member discovered a black coffin with a pile of yellowed human bones inside. The skull had been bisected, indicating that an autopsy had been performed and it was likely donated to science.

Believing that the bones may have been Native American, the sheriff would not allow them to be photographed until the medical examiner and another forensic expert could determine their origin.

Warrensburg, NY, 2013

After years in storage at a local funeral home, the bones of two adult males found in a Warrensburg lodge closed in 1987 were given a proper burial as part of the town’s bicentennial celebrations to honor the historical significance of the Odd Fellows.

Council Bluffs, IA, 2013

Authorities questioned a man, a fifth-generation Odd Fellow, when they spotted a Craigslist ad asking $12,000 for a late 1800s or early 1900s oak coffin with a skeleton inside from his local lodge. He was trying to sell it to cover property taxes on the building which could no longer be supported by their dwindling membership.

The bones were donated by a doctor to a local Odd Fellows chapter in the 1880s. Without proper identification papers, it is not legal to sell human remains in Iowa.

LeFlore County, OK, 2015

Sometime after moving into their new home, a family discovered an articulated skeleton in a coffin in their barn. The original owner of the property informed authorities it was one of two skeletons he found in a Poteau, OK lodge that closed in the 1960s. He put one skeleton in the barn and forgot about it, while the other had been given to a friend

many years earlier for a Halloween prank and was never seen again.

The state crime lab identified the remains as a Japanese man who was 30-45 years old when he died.

West Plains, MO, 2016

A skeleton and 74 other artifacts found in the West Plains IOOF lodge, including ceremonial robes with skull and crossbones, medallions, sashes, and another human skull, were auctioned off in October.

Green Bay, WI, 2016

The Terror on the Fox haunted house discovered skeletons in two late 1800s two-pincher coffins donated to them by a local funeral home years earlier. When designing a new catacomb scene for the 2016 Halloween season, they found the coffins in storage and realized they contained real, medically-prepared remains. Considering the similarities to other stories, it seems likely these were ceremonial Odd Fellows pieces given to the funeral home after a local chapter closed.

Incidentally, the Cult of Weird collection contains an Odd Fellows membership certificate from a Green Bay lodge, dated 1946. Its original recipient may have faced off with one of those same skeletons during his initiation.

One Comment

1.

gothgardener

January 3, 2017 at 11:04 am

I was lucky enough to score an old Oddfellows ritual/ ballot box from one of our local secondhand shops. This is a link to a random post that includes a picture:http://goth-gardening.blogspot.com/2015/06/recent-burst-of-activities-and-shopping.html

Cult of Weird is an online museum of the bizarre, serving weird news and oddities to thousands of curious and macabre minds every day. Have you been initiated?

Copyright ©2017 Cult of Weird. Daily weird news and oddities. Lodge #8113

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div*

div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Oldest aquarium fish in the world dies in his mid-90s

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukWednesday 8 Feb 2017 6:34 am

Granddad was well into his 90s, the aquarium said (Picture: Reuters)

A lungfish known as the oldest aquarium fish in the world has died.

Granddad, as he was known, had been kept at the Shedd Aquarium since 1933 but a decision was taken on Monday to have him put down.

He suffered from failing health, but was well into his mid-90s, officials said today.

Granddad, who came to Shedd from Australia in anticipation of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair, was seen by more than 104 million people during his time in Chicago, aquarium president Bridget Coughlin said in a statement announcing his death.

'For a fish who spent much of his time imitating a fallen log, he sparked curiosity, excitement and wonder among guests of all ages who would hear his story and learn about the incredible biology that makes his species a living fossil and one of the oldest living vertebrate genera on the planet,' Coughlin said.

He was the oldest aquarium fish in the world (Picture: AP)

According to the aquarium, lungfish, which can live to be more than 100 years old and are a protected species in Australia, have existed for nearly 400 million years and fossils show they have remained unchanged for over 100 million years.

A Shedd spokeswoman said Granddad's exact age was unknown but that he was believed to be in his mid-90s. The aquarium said Granddad was euthanized after losing interest in food and showing signs of organ failure.

Lungfish, which are native to the Mary and Burnett rivers in Queensland, Australia, have a single primitive lung and are among the few fish that can breathe air.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

On the Water

Shipwrecks

Voyages grew safer in the 1800s, but storms, fires, and rocky coasts still threatened seafarers.

Ever-greater numbers of people traveled and worked at sea in the 1700s and 1800s. Ship design, navigation, and life-saving methods all improved dramatically. But crossing an ocean was a far riskier journey than it is today. Storms on the high seas might be the most terrifying of the dangers, but thousands of men and women lost their lives within sight of shore.

Oil Painting, The Queen of the Ocean Going to the Rescue of the Ocean Monarch [1848]

Oil Painting, *The* Queen of the Ocean *Going to the Rescue of the* Ocean Monarch

Oil painting on canvas by Samuel Walters, 1848

Gift of CIGNA Museum and Art Collection

Queen of the Ocean *Going to the Rescue of the* Ocean Monarch

View Object Record

On August 24, 1848, the *Ocean Monarch* caught fire while sailing from Liverpool, England, to the United States. The yacht *Queen of the Ocean* rescued 30 people. Other ships picked up another 188. The ship and 178 passengers were lost.

The Wreck and Rescue of an Immigrant Ship

The British bark *Ayrshire* ran aground off Squan Beach, New Jersey, in January 1850. But the passengers and crew had reason for hope: Congress had begun funding the construction of life-saving stations along the coast of New York and New Jersey two years before.

The sea was too rough to launch a surfboat, and the local wreckmaster decided to use his station's life-car instead. Hauled between the shore and the wreck on ropes, the enclosed boat made 60 trips to the wreck over two days and rescued all but one of *Ayrshire*'s 166 passengers and 36 crew.

Sailing from Famine

Many of the passengers on the *Ayrshire*'s final voyage were likely Irish laborers, farmers, and families fleeing famine in Ireland. Almost one million people between 1846 and 1851 died because of the failures of the potato crop and poor distribution of what remained. Hundreds of thousands more sailed for the United States, Canada, Britain, and Australia.

Courtesy of Doris A. Martin

After the Wreck

The Irish immigrants aboard the *Ayrshire* included 50-year-old John Woods, some of his siblings, his 30-year-old wife Lydia, and their three sons—a 2-year-old and infant twins. The family came ashore in the Francis Life-Car. Some settled in New York, while John, Lydia, and their children continued on to Canada, where they established a farm north of Toronto.

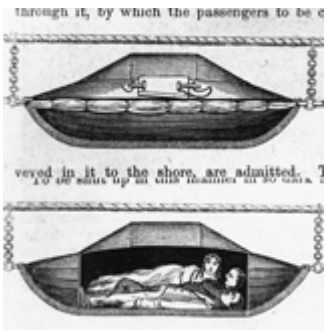
The *Ayrshire* Wreck

The passengers and crew of the bark *Ayrshire* came ashore in the Francis Life-Car, January 12, 1850. Ships traveling the busy sea lanes leading to New York frequently came to grief on the shores of Long Island and New Jersey. In the 1840s, an average of three vessels a month wrecked in these coastal waters.

Gift of Joseph Francis

The Francis Life-Car

The life-car overhead rescued the passengers and crew of the stranded bark *Ayrshire*. It was the first such car ever used in an emergency. Developed by inventor Joseph Francis and manufactured by the Novelty Iron Works in Brooklyn, it was installed at the new Squan Beach, New Jersey, life-saving station in 1849. Boat-shaped and buoyant, the iron life-car was hauled between the stranded vessel and the beach on stout ropes.

- 

Life-car interior

Two to four people were sealed inside for each ride from ship to shore.

Harper's New Monthly Magazine, July 1851

-

Building Iron Boats

The hydraulic press was used at the Novelty Iron Works to shape metallic-boat parts.

Harper's New Monthly Magazine, July 1851

- **Chadwick Beach Life Saving Station**

When the first federal life-saving stations were built along the New Jersey coast in 1849, they were equipped with galvanized iron surfboats. This station, at Chadwick Beach, was established around 1850. Each station was also given an experimental “life-car”—an enclosed boat designed to be hauled by ropes to and from stranded vessels. Life-cars made by Joseph Francis’s works rescued at least 1,400 people on the New Jersey coast alone by the end of 1853.

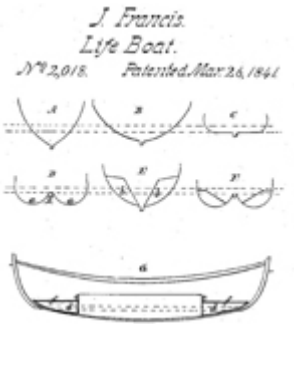
Courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

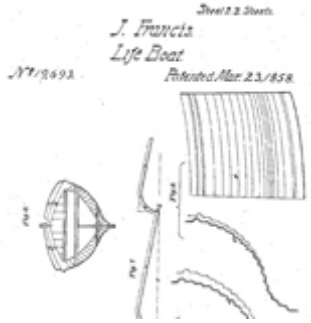
Inventing Safety

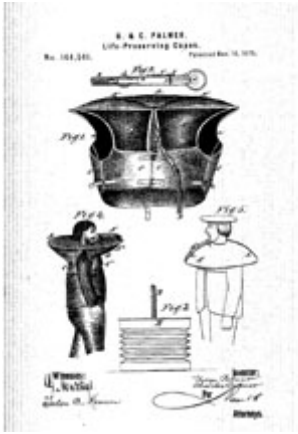
Between 1790 and 1873, the U.S. Patent Office granted 163 patents for an amazing variety of life-preserving boats, rafts, clothing, and other gear. Many of them were invented with an eye toward the rise in passenger travel: life-preserving bedsteads, berths, buckets, bucket rafts, buoys, capes, chairs, stools, dresses, doors, garments, hammocks, mattresses, and even a “life-preserving hat.” Few of these inventions enjoyed practical success.

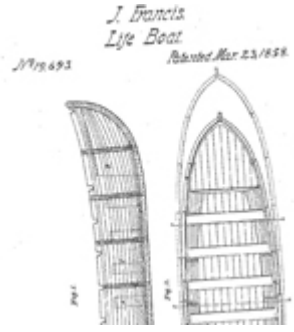
U.S. patent drawings for life-saving gear

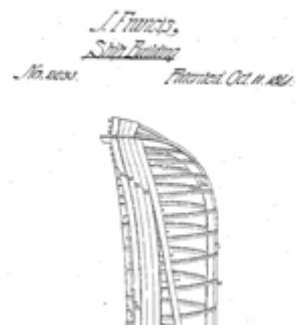
Courtesy of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

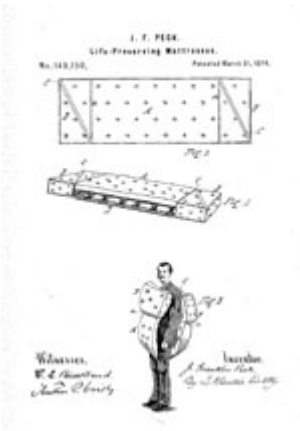


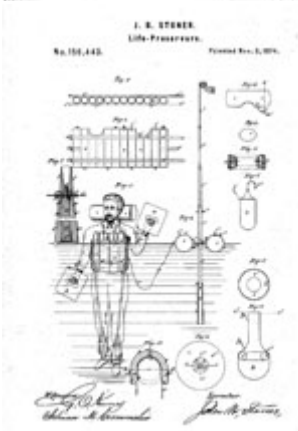




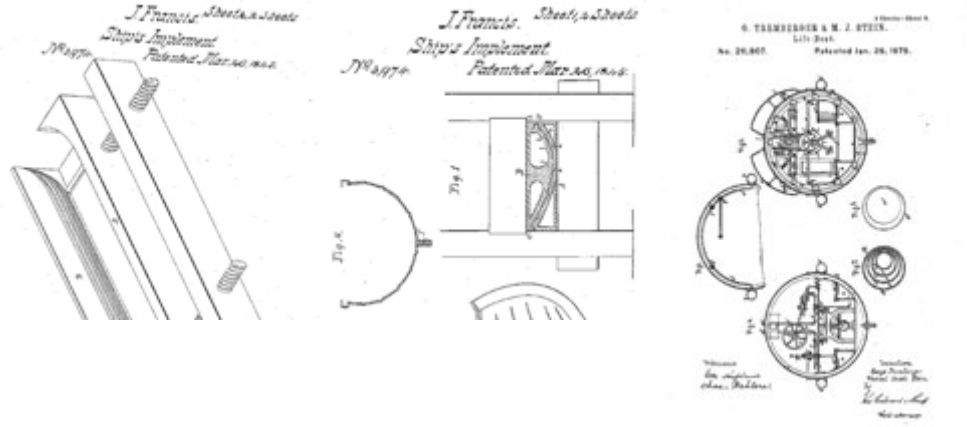








Variations on the Lifeboat



Joseph Francis of New York experimented with new ways to make boats throughout his career.

Patent Model, Life Boat

Patent No. 2,018, March 26, 1841

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

Patent Model, Life Boat [1841]

Lifeboat patent model

View Object Record

In 1841, Joseph Francis patented air-filled chambers to keep a lifeboat afloat, even if damaged. His model contained holes to allow any “water within [to] escape freely without bailing.”

Patent Model, Method of Building Wood Boats [1841]

Patent Model, Method of Building Wood Boats

Patent No. 2,293, October 11, 1841

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

Patent model for a boat-building method

View Object Record

This model accompanied Joseph Francis’ patent application for a new way of fastening a boat’s planking together.

Honoring Joseph Francis

Joseph Francis made a name for himself in the 1840s and 1850s manufacturing light and sturdy iron lifeboats and other nautical gear. These model dies and a sample copper sheet show how his boats were constructed using grooved metal plates.

Francis traveled extensively promoting his inventions and was honored in several countries. French Emperor Napoleon III gave him this snuff box in 1856. President Benjamin Harrison presented this Congressional medal to him in 1890.

- Snuffbox Given to Joseph Francis

Snuff box

View Object Record

Gift of Joseph Francis

Snuffbox Given to Joseph Francis [ca 1856]

-

Joseph Francis Congressional Gold Medal [1890]

Joseph Francis Congressional Gold Medal

Gold medal

View Object Record

Gift of Joseph Francis

-

Corrugated Plate for Model Life Boat [ca 1846]

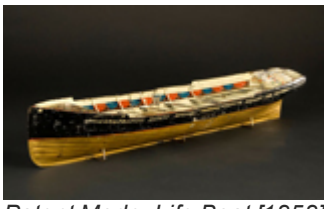
Corrugated Plate for Model Life Boat

Model dies and a sample plate for making corrugated-metal boats

View Object Record

Patent No. 3,974, March 25, 1845

Gift of Joseph Francis

- 

Patent Mode, Life Boat [1858]

Patent Mode, Life Boat

Metallic-boat patent model

View Object Record

Patent No. 19,693, March 23, 1858

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

-

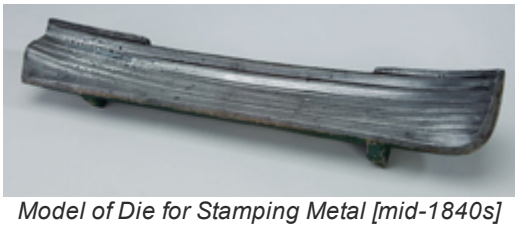
Model of Weight for Stamping Metal [mid-1840s]

Model of Weight for Stamping Metal

Model of weight for stamping metal

View Object Record

Gift of Joseph Francis

- 

Model of Die for Stamping Metal [mid-1840s]

Model of Die for Stamping Metal

Model dies and a sample plate for making corrugated-metal boats

View Object Record

Patent No. 3,974, March 25, 1845

Gift of Joseph Francis

More Ideas for Saving Lives

Patent Model, Life and Treasure Buoy [1858]

Patent Model, Life and Treasure Buoy

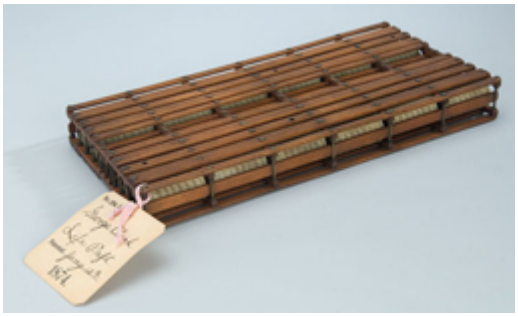
Patent No. 20,072, April 27, 1858

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

Life buoy patent model

View Object Record

Francis D. Lee of Charleston, South Carolina, envisioned a shipboard water tank that—if drained in time—would float free of a sinking ship. Passengers would cling to its exterior while a “treasure safe” suspended below would save “bullion, mails, and other valuables.” If the buoy itself sank, a smaller cork buoy would float out of the turret at the top to “mark the location of the lost treasure.”



Patent Model, Life Raft [1874]

Patent Model, Life Raft

Patent No. 146,316, January 13, 1874

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

Life raft patent model

View Object Record

This raft uses rows of air-filled cylinders as floats. The elaborate wood framework protects the floats from damage and forms a deck. The inventor, George Clark of Ecorse, Michigan, hoped his rafts would be placed on the upper decks of steamships, “...whence they may readily be thrown into the water by one or two persons of ordinary strength, thus avoiding the delay and uncertainty of...launching boats.”

Patent Model, Life Boat [1874]

Patent Model, Life Boat

Patent No. 149,891, December 12, 1874

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

Lifeboat patent model

View Object Record

Alpheus G. and Abram T. Sterling, fishermen from Portland, Maine, designed this boat to partially flood when launched. Water allowed into one chamber helped the boat resist capsizing while air-sealed rubber fenders and a second interior chamber kept it afloat.

Patent Model, Life Boat

Patent No. 211,807, January 28, 1879

Patent Model, Life Boat [1879]

Transfer from U.S. Patent Office

Lifeboat patent model

View Object Record

Designers George Tremberger and Michael Joseph Stein of New York City claimed that this boat's "cabin is free to roll in the body of the boat, and consequently the effect of the rolling motions of the boat is not felt by the passengers." Among the boat's many features were a telescoping mast and hand-operated propeller.

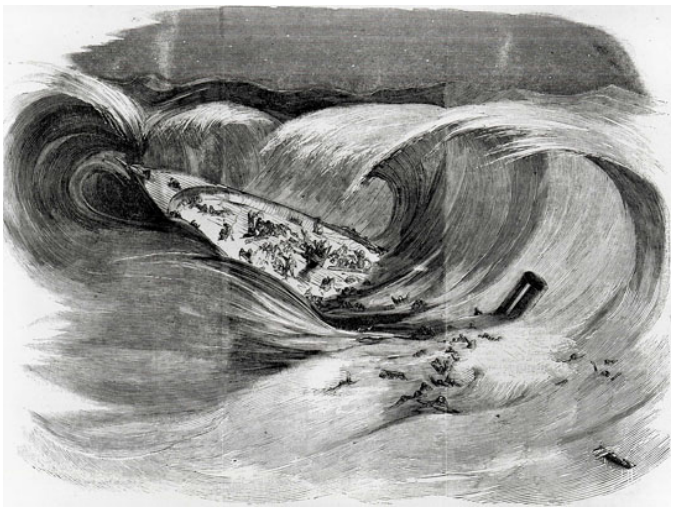
"The Sea Ran Mountains High"

On September 3, 1857, the steamship *Central America* left Panama for New York City with nearly 600 passengers and crew. Nine days later, the vessel sank in a hurricane off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in the deadliest peacetime shipwreck in American history. Four hundred twenty-five people perished in the wreck. And tons of California gold went to the bottom.

The wreck horrified and fascinated the American public and helped spark a financial crisis known as the Panic of 1857. Without the gold on board, several New York banks were unable to pay their creditors. Rediscovered in 1987, the wreck was later salvaged.

The vessel suddenly careened to one side and, looking toward our porthole, I notice that it was entirely under water.
—Addie Easton, survivor of the wreck of the *Central America*
It blew a perfect hurricane and the sea ran mountains high.
—Merchant ship captain Thomas Badger, a passenger on the *Central America*

Disaster!



From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*, October 3, 1857

Courtesy of the California History Room, California State Library

The sinking of the *Central America* was international news. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly* and other newspapers published artists' re-creations of the tragedy.

Rigged Model, Steamship *George Law (Central America)*

Paddle steamer *Central America*

Built by William Webb at New York in 1853

Rigged Model, Steamship George Law (Central America) [1961]

The *Central America*

View Object Record

The *Central America* was a three-masted sidewheel steamship originally named the *George Law*. In 43 trips between Panama and New York City between 1852 and 1857, the ship carried as much as a third of all the gold found during the California gold rush. On its final voyage, the ship's gold cargo included thousands of new $20 Double Eagle gold coins produced at the San Francisco Mint.

Ship's Speaking Trumpet, Bark Laura [1858]

Ship's Speaking Trumpet, Bark *Laura*

Gift of William A. and Jo Anne Eidson

Boatswain's Trumpet, 1858

View Object Record

President James Buchanan gave this ornamental silver speaking trumpet to the captain of the German bark *Laura* for bringing the *Central America*'s final three survivors to New York City. The British brig *Mary* actually rescued the men after nine horrific days on the open ocean. Bound for Ireland, the *Mary* transferred them to the New York-bound *Laura*.

Smithsonian National Museum of American History - Kenneth E. Behring Center

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Once-reviled scavenger bird now the pride of its Indian home

yahoo.com

AP WASBIR HUSSAIN
Associated PressFebruary 8, 2017

In this Feb. 6, 2017, photo, students of Sankardev Sishu Niketan mould clay in the shape of a Greater Adjutant Stork, an endangered bird with a total population of 1,200 in the world, in school at Dadara village, west of Gauhati, India. A group of women have taken it upon themselves to save the endangered bird and call themselves the hargila army, for the bird's name in the local Assamese language. With about 800 birds Assam has the largest number of the Greater Adjutant Stork, concentrated largely in three villages just northwest of state capital Gauhati. (AP Photo/Anupam Nath)

GAUHATI, India (AP) — The greater adjutant stork used to be an object of revulsion in northeast India. It's not a pretty bird, with its large, dull-orange bill and gray, black and white plumage. A carnivore and scavenger, it left bits of dead animals in its nests. People thought it brought bad luck, so they destroyed nests and sometimes poisoned the birds.

The fortunes of the species may turn on local pride.

Local women took it upon themselves early last year to form a conservation movement for the bird in Assam state, one of only three homes the species has left. The women known as the hargila army, for the bird's name in the Assamese language, sing hymns and weave scarves and other items on handlooms with motifs of the bird to create awareness about the need to protect the species.

Only 1,200 of the large storks survive in the world, according to estimates from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Assam has about two-thirds of them, largely in three villages just northwest of state capital Gauhati.

The other 400 or so greater adjutant storks are found in the eastern Indian state of Bihar and in Cambodia.

The conservation movement wasn't easy to sell; wildlife biologist Purnima Devi Barman needed almost eight years to convince locals the bird was crucial to the ecosystem.

"It was seen as a bird with an evil omen that brings in carcass and other rotten stuff," said Barman, who works with a local conservation group called Aranyak.

"We had to involve the locals because the bird nests on trees owned by individual households. The future of the greater adjutant stork depends on individual tree owners who used to fell trees earlier to get rid of the nests," Barman said.

The locals now call Barman "hargila baideo," or hargila sister, after she organized and named the movement, now involving nearly 150 women.

Once the women began to feel pride in ensuring the survival of the bird, they spread the message.

Hymns are sung in the local prayer hall for the stork's survival. At Sankardev Sishu Niketan, the school where most local children study, the teachers talk about protecting the bird.

"We have launched a pride campaign among the children and youth so they can proudly say their village is home to the hargilas," Barman said.

The movement also found support from local government authorities, who have provided nets to protect young storks falling out of the nest during storms or windy days. The critical period is the breeding season from August to April.

"We are providing looms for the weavers and educational grants to children of tree owners in the area as they are going all out in protecting the bird," said Vinod Sachan, the local district magistrate.

In January more than two dozen greater adjutant storks were found dead in a neighborhood near Gauhati. Forensic testing is being done to learn the cause.

"The news of so many hargilas dying has cast a pall of gloom amongst us. We need to do more to save this globally endangered bird," said Barman.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Ontario man used lottery win as proof of mystical powers to defraud woman, police say

JOE O'CONNOR | January 19, 2017 7:38 PM ET
More from Joe O'Connor | @oconnorwrites

Republish
Reprint

Darshan Dhaliwal Peel Regional Police

August 2012 was a good month for Darshan Dhaliwal. He had been out of work for almost a year but, in an instant, thanks to the lottery he played every time the jackpot grew too big to resist, his fortunes changed. Dhaliwal had a winning ticket. He was a millionaire and suddenly went from being unemployed to being interviewed at an Ontario Lottery and Gaming prize centre, holding an oversized cheque for "One Million Dollars," and telling a reporter that he had had to "splash water" on his face when his lucky numbers came up because he couldn't quite believe that they did.

"This is life changing," Dhaliwal told his local newspaper, South Asian Focus. "I had a feeling I was going to win one day."

Dhaliwal had plans for his new-found wealth. He spoke of buying a new car and a new house. It is not known whether he ever made those purchases. But police in Peel Region allege that the 40-year-old Brampton, Ont., man never tired of telling his alleged targets about his lottery win and his great riches.

Dhaliwal, police say, would carry around a clip of the newspaper story written about him as proof, both of his wealth and, as he would tell his alleged targets in Brampton's Punjabi-speaking community, as a sign that he was close to God. He was blessed with good luck, he would allegedly say, and could ward off whatever evil spirits were troubling them — if they allegedly handed over great sums of cash and ultimately their-evil-spirit-infected-precious-and-sentimental-jewels so that Dhaliwal could bury and pray over them.

"Every time you think you have heard it all, something new comes in," says Constable Jason Walker of the Peel Regional Police, the lead investigator on the Dhaliwal case.

The former lottery winner was arrested and charged this week with defrauding a middle-aged realtor out of approximately $61,000 in cash and personal jewelry.

Every time you think you have heard it all, something new comes in.

Dhaliwal first appeared on Const. Walker's radar in 2014, after a middle-aged South Asian woman who had been introduced to Dhaliwal by an acquaintance approached police. She told them a story that, with minor variations, the fraud investigator has now heard in connection with the accused on three different occasions. It involves a lottery, a closeness to God, money, evil spirits inhabiting precious jewels and Dhaliwal's ability to ward them off.

Dhaliwal was accused of fraud in 2014, but the charge was later withdrawn after he repaid the woman. Then another woman came forward, telling police she had met Dhaliwal on a South Asian online dating service for people who want to "meet people for keeps."

The woman outlined a scenario identical to the first.

Dhaliwal was charged with fraud. He repaid the money — approximately $14,000 total between the two victims — and was placed under a 12-month peace bond last December, barring him from accepting payment of any kind “for any spiritual, religious or cultural healing.”

But he was allegedly already accepting payment for spiritual services rendered.

Dhaliwal had appeared at a Brampton open house in July, presenting himself to the realtor as a lottery winner with mystical powers, police say. He was interested in investing in some properties. The realtor contacted police on Jan. 1, when she did not get her money or jewelry back as promised.

The former lottery winner is due in court Friday.

• *Email: joconnor@nationalpost.com | Twitter:* Follow @oconnorwrites 1,876 followers

LATEST CANADA VIDEOS

Christie Blatchford on Garland Trial Day 5

Raptors Pres and GM Ujiri, and Prime Minister Trudeau meet students affected by school shooting

Toddler's death was avoidable, fire chief says

The opera singer

Find National Post on Facebook

Topics: **Canada**, **News**, **Toronto**, **Editors' Choice**, **Fraud**, **Lotteries**

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Orange Goo That Invaded An Alaskan Village Turns Out To Be Eggs

Dina Spector Aug. 10, 2011, 8:04 AM 30,961
2011-08-10

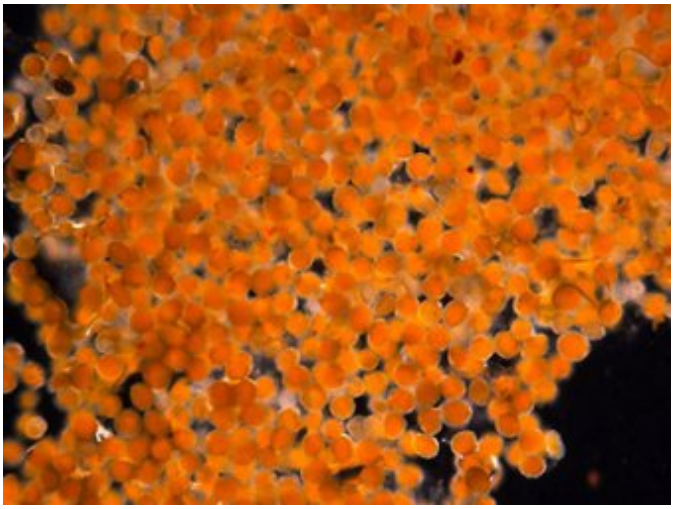
businessinsider.com

BUSINESS INSIDER

Orange Goo That Invaded An Alaskan Village Turns Out To Be Eggs

An unknown orange substance that washed ashore on a tiny Alaskan village last week has been identified as microscopic eggs filled with lipid oil droplets, according to a news release from NOAA scientists at the Juneau laboratory.

Microscopic eggs found near the village of Kivalina.



Microscopic eggs found near the village of Kivalina. NOAA

The orange-tinted water was first spotted by residents in the village of Kivalina, an Inupiat Eskimo outpost on Alaska's northwest coast, last Thursday when it appeared in the town's harbor and was seen floating on top of buckets used to collect rainwater, following a downpour.

A town official told Discovery News that "the orange material turned gooey and gave off a gaseous odor. But scooped out of the ocean, the substance had no odor."

Villagers were worried that the material might have been toxic after several small minnows died once the tide washed the orange substance away.

Although the eggs are natural, scientists have still not determined the species or whether the eggs were toxic. Officials are waiting on results from samples that were sent to a NOAA lab in South Carolina for further testing.

- * Copyright © 2017 Business Insider Inc. All rights reserved. Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Orangutan climbs onto tourist boat in Indonesia, slaps selfie-taker in the face

upi.com

By Ben Hooper | Jan. 13, 2017 at 12:54 PM

This orangutan is about to show its lack of enthusiasm for selfie-taking. Screenshot: Newsflare

JAKARTA, Jan. 13 (UPI) -- A tourist traveling with friends in Indonesia captured their encounter with an initially-friendly orangutan that ended up slapping one of the men in the face.

The video, posted to YouTube by user RailGod, shows the group of man and their guides riding on a boat traveling down the Sekonyer river in the Borneo jungle.

"We came across a wild orangutan hanging over the river on our way to Camp Leakey, who joined us in the boat," the uploader wrote.

The orangutan appears unafraid of the humans and approaches them to receive some offered snacks.

The primate appears content to take food from the hands and mouths of the men, but seems suddenly annoyed when one of the men attempts to take a selfie with it.

The orangutan slaps the man in the face and quickly backs away from him.

"He just slapped me, like, right on the nose!" the uninjured man says through laughter.

The orangutan hangs out at the back of the boat for a little longer before climbing back into the trees.

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Oregon court reverses DUI conviction of wheelchair user

yahoo.com

Associated PressDecember 29, 2016

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Court of Appeals has reversed the conviction of a wheelchair user who had been found guilty of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

James Greene of Waldport was arrested in November 2012 after entering a crosswalk in a motorized wheelchair and striking the side of a moving pickup. Police determined he was impaired by alcohol and drugs, and a jury convicted him of drunken driving.

In his appeal, Greene argued that he should have been considered a pedestrian, not subject to the DUI law.

The state disagreed, pointing to a law that treats motorized wheelchairs like bicycles when they are driven on bike lanes.

In its opinion Thursday, the Appeals Court decided legislators only intended to have wheelchairs treated like bicycles in that narrow circumstance, and users should be considered pedestrians when in a crosswalk.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Harbin zoo blames bad camera angle for making their ferocious tigers look 'chubby'

shanghaiist.com

by Alex Linder in News on Feb 10, 2017 11:00 pm

not_fat_tigersfront.jpg

A Harbin park has taken offense at netizens across China calling its tigers "chubby."

"Is this you after Spring Festival?" asked one Weibo user in a viral post earlier this week showing nine photos of some very plump looking Siberian tigers at the Heilongjiang Siberian Tiger Park, much to the delight of Chinese web users who could relate to stuffing themselves full of food during the Chinese New Year holiday.

chubby_tiger2.jpg

chubby_tiger3.jpg

However, the park claims that in this case the camera really does add 10 lbs, blaming the tigers' apparent obesity on unfavorable camera angles.

To prove that their tigers are in fact ferocious, the park has published a few photos of the big cats looking considerably more lean and spry.

If web users don't believe the images are authentic, the park has challenged them to come to the park to see for themselves.

[Images via China News]

© 2003-2017 Gothamist LLC. All rights reserved. Terms of Use & Privacy Policy.

not_fat_tigers2.jpg

not_fat_tigers3.jpg

not_fat_tigers.jpg

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Cancer charity seeks help for sunburn-prone Danes abroad - BBC News bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 8 February 2017

Image copyrightDanish Cancer Society

A Danish cancer charity is asking residents of foreign holiday destinations to look out for pale-skinned visitors who may be at risk of sunburn, and has launched a playful campaign to raise awareness.

The Danish Cancer Society is spreading its "Help a Dane" message through a multilingual series of videos parodying a government-style announcement. Each one sees TV presenter Mikael Bertelsen solemnly address the people of France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Thailand in their own languages, while flanked by a choir of sunburnt and swimsuit-clad Danes. The five countries are the top destinations for Danish tourists heading abroad.

"We Danes love your country, but there is a problem," Mr Bertelsen says. "The strong sun is harmful to our delicate skin and every day a Dane dies from skin cancer. We know you have a lot on your plate, but we respectfully ask for your support. Help a Dane in the sun."

Backed by some dramatic string music, Mr Bertelsen then demonstrates how locals can help their paler visitors. Remind them to seek the shade of sun umbrella, wear a hat and sunscreen, he says, while rubbing some SPF-30 into the shoulder of a shirtless Danish man.

The campaign's website invites people to sign up as "ambassadors", for which they'll receive "a special thank you" and a guide on how to help a Dane in the sun.

While the advert's tone is clearly intended to be amusing, it's backed up by some serious statistics. Denmark has one of the highest cancer rates in the world, partly due to high diagnosis rates but also because of lifestyle factors. The Danish Cancer Society notes that estimated annual skin cancer cases are almost double the number in France, when differences in age distribution are taken into account.

Image copyright Danish Cancer Society

Pet Tortoise Starts House Fire After Knocking Over Heat Lamp

huffingtonpost.com

The tortoise has yet to comment.

01/11/2017 02:23 pm ET
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post

A tortoise in San Antonio has reason to hide in his shell after starting a house fire that damaged two homes.

The fire started just after midnight Tuesday morning when the 150-pound tortoise, named Bits, knocked over a heat lamp in his outdoor cage, according to KSAT.

The heat lamp caused a mattress to catch fire, which spread to the home next door.

Bits suffered a few burns on his shell, but was otherwise OK, according to Fox San Antonio.

San Antonio Fire Department spokesman Woody Woodward said the neighboring home got the brunt of damage, about $150,000 worth, according to My San Antonio.

It wasn't a total loss for the family that lives there, but they will have to find other housing until repairs can be done.

The homeowner told Fox San Antonio he has contacted his insurance company to take care of the damages.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Government petition: 'Explain why President Trump is such a needy little b*tch'

metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.ukWednesday 25 Jan 2017 2:12 pm

(Picture: Getty Images)

We the people (Picture: Getty/Metro)

A petition calls on the US federal government 'To explain to the American people why President Donald J. Trump is such a needy little bitch.'

The petition, tagged under 'homeland security and defence', reads: 'Many Americans are concerned that President Donald J. Trump's thin skin will result in a domestic or global catastrophe.

'This petition calls on the White House please explain to the American people, and to the world, why the President of the United States, the most powerful nation the world has ever known, is such a needy little bitch.'

For some reason, it says only one person has signed. Bit weird, considering that hundreds of people are posting about it and sharing it.

Glitch on the website?

petition

To get a response from the White House, the petition needs to get 99,999 signatures by February 22.

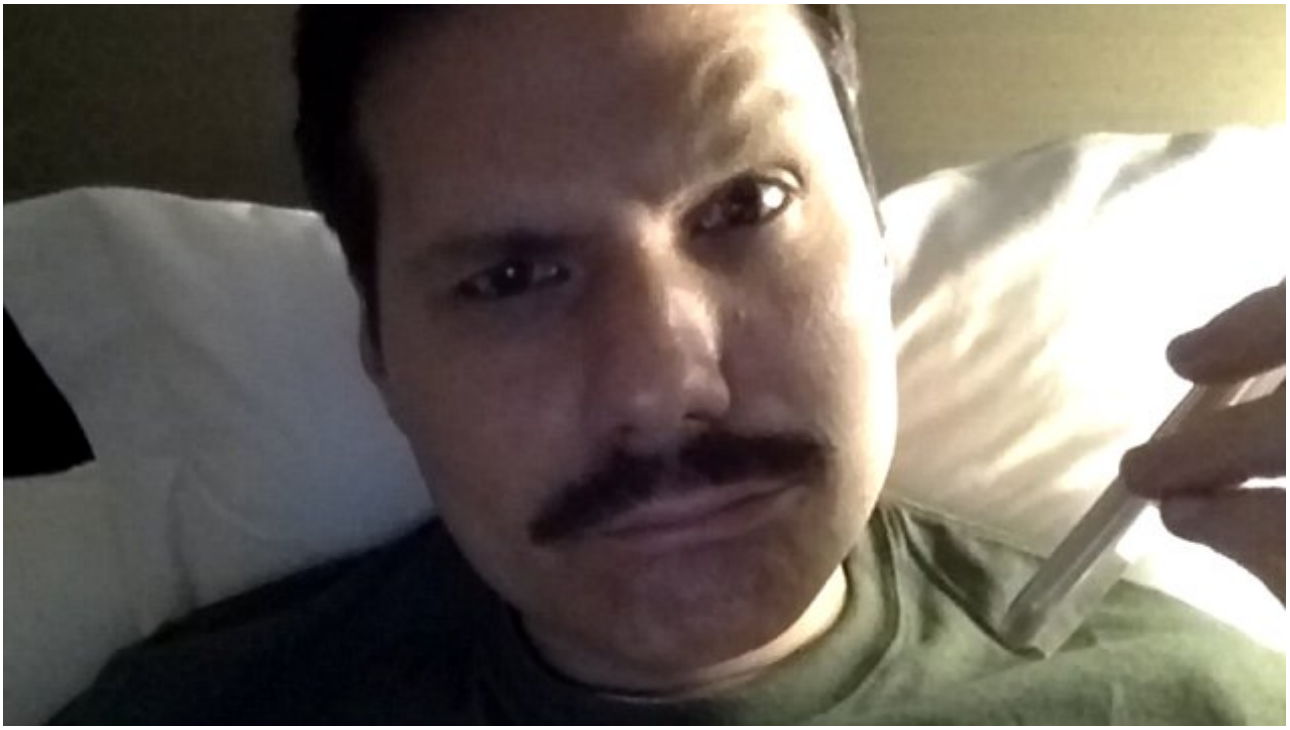
It was created by Michael Black, a comedian.

He phoned up the 'Winter White House' (that's Trump's resort in Mar-a-Lago, Florida) to ask why no signatures were showing up, despite 'hundreds or potentially thousands' signing.

'I know the White House in Washington DC isn't taking calls anymore, so I thought I should call the Winter White House to try and get some help,' he said. 'Should I expect a call back?'

'I'm not sure,' was the response.

Michael Black calls Winter White House about his petition



Asked on Twitter whether he was adding to the divisions in the country by being ‘juvenile and snarky’, he said: ‘No, I think making people smile helps.’

Trump has been ridiculed since taking office for his outbursts, including for his preoccupation with the size of his inauguration crowd.

His spokeswoman Kellyanne Conway denied that Obama drew vastly greater numbers to his swearing in as president (despite objective evidence), saying she was offering ‘alternative facts’.

It sparked immediate comparisons to George Orwell’s 1984, which coined the terms ‘newspeak’ and ‘doublethink’.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man Paid DMV With 298,745 Pennies In Pettiest Revenge Scheme Ever

huffingtonpost.com

He felt like they wasted his time.

01/13/2017 05:03 pm ET
Elyse WanshelAssociate Editor, Trends, The Huffington Post

The DMV has driven one man to do something extraordinary.

On Dec. 11, Nick Stafford pushed five wheel barrels full of loose coins into Department of Motor Vehicles in Lebanon, Virginia, according to a statement he made on his company's website.

Stafford, who has been fighting with DMV for months, decided to pay $2,987.14 in taxes on his car with 298,745 pennies. The facility's automated coin-counting machine couldn't handle the load, and employees were forced to count the 1,548 pounds of change by hand. Stafford said that he arrived at the DMV at 9 a.m. Wednesday and staff was not done counting the pennies until early Thursday morning, the BBC reports.

The whole thing stemmed from a longstanding grudge against the department.

"You may ask, why go though all this trouble?" Stafford wrote on his website. "In 2016 I paid nearly $300,000 just in state and federal income taxes and I have zero tolerance for any government employee refusing to follow the laws of the Commonwealth, that's why."

In September, Stafford tried to call his local DMV to ask what he calls a "30 second question" about where to register his car and pay the sales tax, since he owns multiple houses in the area.

The phone number listed online put him on hold for over an hour. A direct line to the Lebanon DMV wasn't listed online, so he made a Freedom of Information Act request for the number, which he was given.

When Stafford called, the person who answered told him he wasn't allowed to call that number and hung up on him. He called the same number repeatedly until he finally had his question answered. Yet, to "prove a point" he called the number again and requested the private, unlisted numbers of nine other DMV offices in Virginia.

The Lebanon DMV refused, so Stafford took them to court.

"If they were going to inconvenience me then I was going to inconvenience them," he told the Bristol Herald Courier.

Stafford dropped $165 to file three lawsuits in Russell County General District Court. One lawsuit was against the Lebanon DMV itself, and two were against specific employees.

On Dec. 10, a judge dismissed all the lawsuits when Stafford was provided all the phone numbers in court by a representative from the state's attorney general.

Stafford has posted all of these numbers on his website.

"I think the backbone to our republic and our democracy is open government and transparency in government and it shocks me that a lot of people don't know the power of FOIA," Stafford told the Herald Courier.

Yet, Stafford wasn't done.

Less than 24 hours later, he collected hundreds of rolls of pennies to pay his taxes at the DMV. He then hired 11 people at $10 an hour to help him break open the rolled coins. It took them four hours to do this, costing Stafford $440. He then bought the five wheelbarrows, which cost him another $400. All in all, Stafford spent $1,005 to get 10 phone numbers and drop off a bunch of pennies at the DMV.

Not to mention the $2,987.14 he had to pay in taxes, which he happily brought to the DMV on Wednesday morning.

The DMV had to accept his form of payment because the US Coinage Act of 1965 says that coins are "legal tender for all debts, public charges, taxes and dues."

According to Stafford, the employees at the DMV did not cause a fuss.

"The DMV employees are being very respectful and accommodating considering the situation," he wrote on his website.

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Horrifying photos of abandoned church feature CREEPY ghost-like figures

express.co.uk

express_logo

Horrifying photos of abandoned church feature CREEPY ghost-like figures

IMAGES of an eerie abandoned church haunted by creepy ghost-like figures will send a shiver down your spine.

By Lauren O'Callaghan
PUBLISHED: 11:26, Tue, Jan 10, 2017 | UPDATED: 11:39, Tue, Jan 10, 2017

The disturbing figures, shrouded in white sheets, represent the ghosts of Sudeten Germans - who played a role in the history of the small village in the Czech Republic where the 14th century church is located.

They have been placed around the run-down church, both standing and sat down in the old wooden pews, as the walls crumble around them.

The spooky snaps of the church, which was abandoned in the 1960s, were taken by urban explorer Roman, 29, during a trip around Europe.

Roman, from the Netherlands, said: "The church became abandoned after the ceiling collapsed during a funeral service, and the locals became afraid so they boarded up the building.

"From then on, services were held outside instead.

"The ghostly figures inside are part of an art project, hoping to attract tourists to raise money for renovation works.

"I've tried to create a combination over over-viewing this beautiful old church and haunting close-ups.

"One of the ghostly figures was placed right behind the door, and it greeted me as I entered - I have to admit, it scared me for a second.

"The figures look very real and have been created very well."

The images come after creepy CCTV footage appears to show a ghost throw a woman to the ground.

In the clip, a woman is seen sitting alone in a dining room and suddenly gets the shock of her life when the chair next to her suddenly begins to move.

Caters

She jumps out of the way of the chair and backs into the corner of the room.

But just moments later the table she was sitting at is thrown into a doorway and blocks her exit.

As she backs into the corner again she appears to faint.

As she lays unconscious on the ground furniture continues to move around her.

The video went viral online as internet users questioned what was happening in the clip.

Caters

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Amazing photos of first Mount Everest climb up for sale

dailymail.co.uk

The men who took on a mountain: Amazing photos of George Mallory's FIRST attempt on Mount Everest in 1922 found in a dusty school cupboard go on sale

- **George Mallory and his team of more than 100 supporters attempted to climb the mountain in 1922**
- **The expedition ended in tragedy when seven porters were killed in an avalanche near the summit**
- **Photographs taken during the trip had sat in a school cupboard before they were found by a teacher**

By Richard Spillett for MailOnline

With their blazers, walking boots and pipes to smoke, some of these gentleman explorers could be out for an afternoon ramble through the British countryside.

But these astonishing, rare photographs actually detail the first attempt to climb Mount Everest embarked upon by legendary mountaineer George Mallory and his hardy team of adventurers in 1922.

The slides, taken by a pioneering photographer who joined the expedition, had sat undiscovered in a classroom cupboard for years until a teacher found them when his school was closed down.

Forty years later, the teacher is now putting them up for sale at Lawrences auction house at Crewkerne in Somerset and they are expected to fetch more than £2,000.

Beautiful photos have emerged of the first ascent on Mount Everest by a group of mountaineers in 1922. This photo shows, back row (left to right); Henry T Morshead, expedition leader Charles G Bruce, photographer John Noel, Dr Arthur Wakefield, Dr Howard Somervell, John Morris, Major Edward 'Teddy' F Norton and, front row; George Mallory, George Ingle Finch, Dr Tom G Longstaff, General C Bruce and deputy leader Edward Lisle Strutt

The expedition pioneered the use of equipment, including cameras at high altitudes. This photo shows soldier and mountaineer Major Norton (centre) and Mallory (right) with other members of the team before an attempt on the peak

The expedition was the first to use oxygen masks to help climbers reach higher points. Major Norton and Mallory are seen with the equipment at 27,000 feet. During the trip they became the first

climbers to go above 26,000-feet

The wonderfully clear pictures show the group with none of the high-tech clothing now used by climbers on the mountain

The 1922 expedition is seen as the first ascent on the world's tallest mountain and it was the first to use bottled oxygen to aid mountaineers as they neared the 29,000-ft peak.

But the trip ended in tragedy when, on their third attempt at reaching the summit, the group were hit by an avalanche and seven men died.

- Hanging out at the fair! Incredible images reveal life for... Live by the sword, die by the sword: Brutal 130-year-old... Bringing the past to life: Brazilian artist turns historic...

But the group did have some success, becoming the first ever climbers to go above 26,000 feet, the first to use of oxygen bottles, paving the way for future attempts ,and the first to get high quality photos near the summit.

Cheshire-born Mallory, who was part of the Cambridge rowing team while studying at the university, got into mountaineering after the end of the First World War, during which he took part in the shelling of the Somme while in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Group photographer John Noel brought lightweight cameras which he carried up the mountain and took photos which the team used to help fund a later attempt on the mountain in 1924, which claimed the life of Mallory

The pictures show the simple camps set up by the men during the climb, which claimed the lives of seven local porters

The climbers made three attempts on the summit. One without oxygen masks and two with oxygen, the second of which ended in tragedy when an avalanche covered two groups of men

This picture is believed to show expedition leader Charles G Bruce (right) and George Ingle Finch, a chemist from University College London who joined the trip to carry out experiments

As well as breaking the record for the highest altitude climbers had reached, the trip helped fund later attempts on the peak

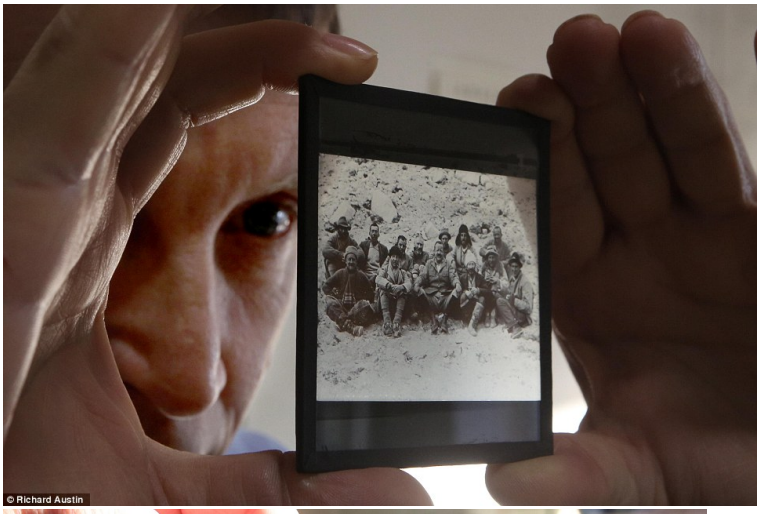
Mallory took part in three expeditions to Everest. The first, in 1921, was a reconnaissance expedition to assess whether a route could be found up the north side of the mountain. The south side was then not an option because Nepal was closed to Westerners.

When a route was discovered, Mallory returned the following year with a team led by Charles Bruce and Edward Lisle Strutt, along with more than 100 Tibetan and Nepalese porters.

After setting up a base camp, the group made three attempts at the summit. The first, undertaken without using oxygen, reached a world record 26,985 ft. The second, with oxygen, reached 27,316 ft before Bruce had a problem with his oxygen mask.

The team's doctors advised against a third attempt because so many of the group were exhausted or ill. But it went ahead and the team was hit by an avalanche.

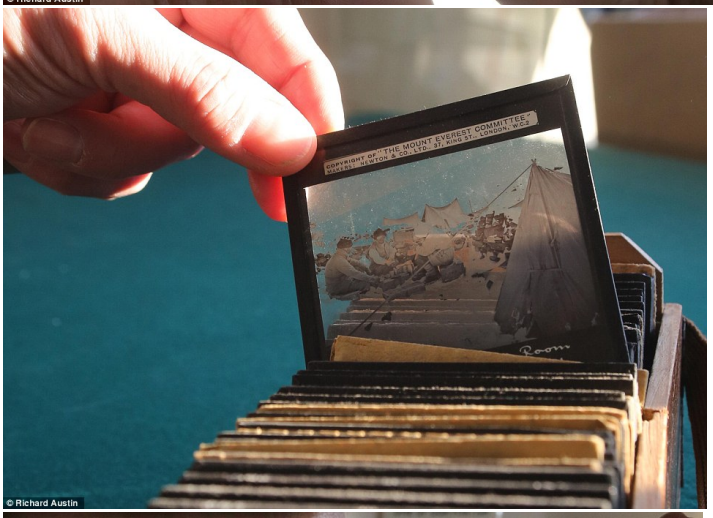
Robert Ansell, from the auction house selling the slides, says they were found by a teacher in a school cupboard 40 years ago



The set of 36 slides is expected to sell for more than £2,000 when they go under the hammer at an auction next month

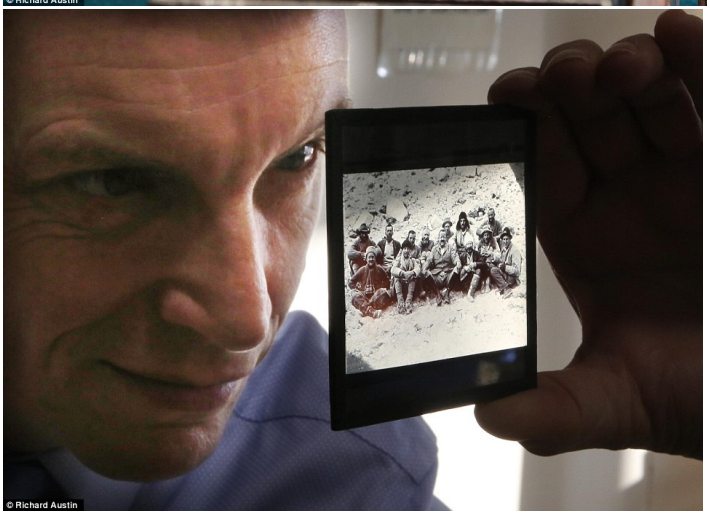
Mr Ansell said the slides are an extraordinary lot, which are going on sale alongside other maps, books and manuscripts

Nine porters fell into a crevasse and were buried under the snow. Two porters were dug out but seven others died.



After the tragedy, Mallory made a tour of the UK and US and, using the data his group had gained, raised funds for another expedition in 1924, which got to within 900ft of the summit.

Mallory and his fellow climber Andrew 'Sandy' Irvine died during the 1924 expedition and their bodies weren't found until 1999. Some still believe they may have reached the peak before they died. Edmund Hillary and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay are the first climbers credited with reaching the summit in 1953.



The photos now going on sale are understood to have been taken by the group's photographer, John Noel, who took a number of lightweight cameras, including film cameras with him.

The set of 36 glass latern slides is set to go up for sale on February 3 alongside other books, maps and manuscripts.

Add your comment

The comments below have not been moderated.

Water Glass, Base Cydonia, Canada, about 3 hours ago

They were the real heroes, the real adventurers.

Chris, Brisbane, about 6 hours ago

If you are interested in the story of these men and their motivations i can recommend reading 'Into the Silence' . A brilliant book

murlyn, someplace, United Kingdom, about 9 hours ago

A historic find, good job.

Huggy, London, about 11 hours ago

Did Mallory and Irving actually summit in 1924? They found Mallory's body a while back and it is still there. They've yet to find Irving and his camera which could prove they did, or did not. Either way they were all brave men.

HillClimber, Cheshire, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Thank you for the compliment and fear was never an issue. No, Irving and I did not summit, but I fell foolishly as a result of my momentary distraction. Irving got into a predicament as he tried to climb done by himself, and died a few hours after I did. I've detailed my death in "The Psychic Life of George Herbert Leigh Mallory", available in formats on Amazon. Com.

HillClimber, Cheshire, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Thank you for the compliment but no, we did not summit. Irving slipped a few hours after I fell putting himself into a predicament from which he was unable to free himself. I foolishly allowed myself to be distracted and that is why I ended up falling to my death. I've outlined the details in Chapter 21 off "The Psychic Life of George Herbert Leigh Mallory", available on Amazon.Com.

Athelstan, Vancouver, Canada, about 11 hours ago

Great men...hope these pics go on public display

Marc707, manchester, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

Fascinating.

p.s., south west, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

true pioneers; having read about this, these are fantastic photo's and General Bruce looks exactly like I thought he would !!

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Pigeon Man vows to continue feeding birds despite threat of jail

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukTuesday 24 Jan 2017 11:17 am

Paul Charlton has been fined for feeding pigeons (Picture: SWNS)

A man who says feeding pigeons is his career has been told he faces a prison sentence if he continues.

Paul Charlton, known as the Pigeon Man, was fined £300 for breaching a notice against him to try and stop him feeding the birds.

He's now been given a criminal behaviour order, but he remains defiant.

He told Bath Magistrates' Court: 'I'm going to carry on feeding the pigeons. I will have to go to prison before I give you a single penny.'

Charlton was spotted breaching his order on three occasions – May 9, May 10 and September 23 last year.

Despite the conviction he has vowed to continue feeding pigeons (Picture: SWNS)

He denied three counts of breaching the notice against him but was convicted in his absence on November 21.

Charlton earns a living by balancing pigeons on his arms, shoulders and head and gives people grain to feed them in exchange for money.

Speaking before the sentencing, he said: 'This has been my job for the past four years. It is how I pay my rent and my bills. I make a living out of it.

'It's my occupation whether people want to see it as an occupation or not. It makes people happy.'

Barrister Carrie-Ann Evans, acting for Bath and North East Somerset Council, told the court: 'He understood what was required of him to stop feeding the pigeons.

He has angered local business owners who say pigeons are affecting their businesses (Picture: SWNS)

'Despite this he carried on feeding the birds and providing grain.'

She also read out a victim statement from the manager a cafe by the Roman Baths, who said: 'Paul Charlton feeds the pigeons directly outside my premises.

‘We have a responsibility to make sure the tables are clean and hygienic.

‘Many members of the public are uncomfortable and often find the number of pigeons unacceptable.

‘We have had pigeons fly into the shop on multiple occasions. They have landed on our cakes which then have to be thrown away.

‘There is an absolutely clear correlation between his presence and the pigeons. There’s an emotional cost of frustration.’

Charlton was fined £100 for each breach of the order but walked out of the court while his sentence was being read out.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Super Bowl Revival of Bud Light Pitchdog Spuds MacKenzie Prompts Death Threat

Jacob Sullum | Feb. 7, 2017 10:30 am

reason.com

Super Bowl Revival of Bud Light Pitchdog Spuds MacKenzie Prompts Death Threat

Anti-alcohol activists are haunted by the ghost of the original party animal.

AB InBev

Long before Melissa McCarthy caused a stir by putting on a loose suit and a bad temper to impersonate White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, a female English bull terrier named Honey Tree Evil Eye drew cheers and catcalls by putting on a beach shirt and and a laid-back attitude to play Spuds MacKenzie, "the original party animal." On Sunday, three decades after the character's debut at the 1987 Super Bowl, AB InBev revived the Bud Light pitchdog for a Super Bowl spot in which he appears as an apparition, voiced by Carl Weathers, to teach an indolent young man the value of beer-enhanced conviviality. Alcohol Justice, formerly known as the Marin Institute, was not amused:

> 30 years after being deeply buried in the well-deserved grave of youth-attractive booze-pitching animal characters, the universally condemned Spuds McKenzie has returned. Like a Zombie in search of new and younger victims, the dog will be pitching beer to a global audience estimated to include 30 million impressionable children.
>
> "The specter of a three-decade old, cuddly Spuds McKenzie—the sunglass-wearing, Joe Camel of Big Alcohol—pushing beer again is unacceptable," said Michael Scippa, Director of Public Affairs for Alcohol Justice. "Resurrecting this despicable icon of irresponsible alcohol marketing proves that breaking the toxic social norm that binds alcohol to sports must begin with creating a divide between sports and alcohol ads."...
>
> "We call upon world leaders to recognize the public health and safety costs and eliminate alcohol advertising, sponsorships, branding and promotions from all sports," added Scippa. "And let's begin by driving a wooden stake through the heart of a zombie, beer-pushing, cartoonish character."

You might think a group that sees Spuds MacKenzie as the caninification of all that is evil about the alcohol industry would take the trouble to spell his name right. And since Joe Camel came after Spuds MacKenzie, wouldn't it be more accurate to say that Joe Camel was the Spuds MacKenzie of Big Tobacco? Be that as it may, Scippa is fostering a potentially life-threatening misconception by encouraging people to believe that a wooden stake through the heart will kill a zombie.

It may be a bit of an exaggeration to say Spuds was "universally condemned." I know that Strom Thurmond did not like him, and neither did the Center for Science in the Public Interest. But ancient teetotalers and busybody killjoys aside, there must have been some people who liked the TV spots featuring Spuds, which were breathlessly narrated by *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* host Robin Leach. The campaign was credited with helping boost sales of Bud Light by 20 percent between 1987 and 1988. I myself do not recall being offended by the ads, notwithstanding their allusions to bestiality, so much as annoyed by their ubiquity and their implication

that there was anything enjoyable about drinking Bud Light, a blatant lie that may very well have led impressionable youth astray.

Jacob Sullum is a senior editor at *Reason* magazine and a nationally syndicated columnist.

Follow Jacob Sullum on Twitter

Editor's Note: We invite comments and request that they be civil and on-topic. We do not moderate or assume any responsibility for comments, which are owned by the readers who post them. Comments do not represent the views of Reason.com or Reason Foundation. We reserve the right to delete any comment for any reason at any time. Report abuses

- **JWatts|2.7.17 @ 10:33AM|#**

  Killjoys

- **robc|2.7.17 @ 10:35AM|#**

  I never understood using a dog to sell bottled water.

- **Mike Schmidt|2.7.17 @ 10:40AM|#**

  I think it's a subtle hint as to what Bud Light is made from.

- **Scarecrow Repair & Chippering|2.7.17 @ 10:55AM|#**

  Truth in advertising!

- **Zeb|2.7.17 @ 10:37AM|#**

  the universally condemned Spuds McKenzie

  I think this may be the first time I have encountered anyone condemning Spuds MacKenzie.

  And the notion that young people need any enticement other than "it gets you drunk" to drink is pretty ridiculous.

- **Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 10:58AM|#**

  Did we have Bud posters that made us drink, or did we acquire the posters (which were free) because we already drank?

- **Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:24AM|#**

  Or was it the bikini girls and the funny dog on them? They could have been advertising Coca-cola (or shredded wheat) and been as entertaining.

Juice|2.7.17 @ 11:27AM|#

It was their perms.

•

Cynical Asshole|2.7.17 @ 12:10PM|#

I seem to vaguely recall some minor pearl clutching at the time, but certainly nothing that would rise to the level of "universally condemned." Maybe universally condemned in the circles that pearl clutching killjoy fuckwads like this Michael Scippa asshole travels in, but among normal people, not so much.

•

Conchfritters|2.7.17 @ 12:21PM|#

My 16 year old son went directly out and bought a 6 pack of bud light after watching that commercial.

•

Conchfritters|2.7.17 @ 12:23PM|#

Just kidding - we live in Minnesota, where God and Andrew Volstead are in league with one another to deprive us of alcohol every seven days.

•

Hayeksplosives|2.7.17 @ 1:35PM|#

That's what Hudson, Wisconsin is for!

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 10:38AM|#

I believe the water was adulterated with ethyl alcohol and the dog was surrounded by bikini babes.

•

Lee wishes he made the list...|2.7.17 @ 10:39AM|#

Alcohol Justice is one of the Buck Trust entities, which has an interesting backstory in of itself.

•

Jimbo|2.7.17 @ 11:52AM|#

If it's stupid, chances are it's HQ is in Marin or S.F.

•

Hangin' with Agent Cooper|2.7.17 @ 4:07PM|#

I saw Alcohol Justice (AJ for those in the know) open for The Melvins in ought-three.

•

Thomas O.|2.7.17 @ 10:44AM|#

Geez, Reason, if you're gonna go the clickbait route, at least be accurate. A busybody watchdog group calling for a stake to be driven through the heart of a fictional character - a ghost one, even - doesn't really constitute a "death threat".

- **Bra Ket|2.7.17 @ 10:59AM|#**

  Yes it's instigation for other people to commit murder, not a threat to do it oneself.

- **Thomas O.|2.7.17 @ 12:00PM|#**

  I failed to see in the article where Alcohol Justice explicitly called for real-life human beings to be killed, by themselves or anyone else. All I saw is a wooden stake through the heart of a ghost dog, which isn't really feasible in the first place.

- **Heroic Mulatto|2.7.17 @ 12:08PM|#**

  I agree.

  It's clearly an *un*-death threat.

- **Bra Ket|2.7.17 @ 12:16PM|#**

  First of all, an anthromorphized ghost dog. Second, what matters is whether the instigator believes his instigation will lead to the death of the ghost dog. And third, are you trying to suggest the vaule of a ghost dog's uh "life" is less than a human's?

- **Heroic Mulatto|2.7.17 @ 12:17PM|#**

  Clearly, Thomas O. is a vile racial bigot.

- **Dan S.|2.7.17 @ 12:02PM|#**

  A "watchdog" group that is actually watching a dog.

- **jack sprat|2.7.17 @ 12:27PM|#**

  Nice

- **clay@plan9design.com|2.7.17 @ 2:22PM|#**

  Ya dang morons,he's saying ya cant kill zombies with wood. If you tried that it would be a threat to your life cuz they would eat yer brain.

- **Hangin' with Agent Cooper|2.7.17 @ 4:07PM|#**

  THAT'S THE JOKE.

AddictionMyth|2.7.17 @ 10:45AM|#

OH MY GOD ANOTHER ARTICLE BY REASON BASHING TRUMP AND IGNORING THE TERRIST ATTACKS ALL AROUND US

•

Mongo|2.7.17 @ 10:49AM|#

It's already February and you haven't killed yourself.

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 10:45AM|#

I remember liking Spuds MacKenzie. But holy shit I didn't remember that the ads were that stupid.

•

prolefeed|2.7.17 @ 10:49AM|#

It was the 80s. Everything about it was worse than we remember. That is how healing occurs, taking the edge off the worst moments in memory.

•

Mike Schmidt|2.7.17 @ 10:53AM|#

Exactly. Try watching an episode of Knight Ryder.

Although, I've been watching episodes of *Simon and Simon* and I think they've (mostly) held up pretty well. The same goes for *Magnum P.I.*

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 10:59AM|#

Did you see the sunrise?

•

Mike Schmidt|2.7.17 @ 11:01AM|#

+1 Magnum
+1 Archer

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:03AM|#

That was such a shocking moment for early 80s TV.

•

Mike Schmidt|2.7.17 @ 11:06AM|#

Yeah, that was some very real shit for that time. Magnum had a few very dark and serious episodes.

•

Crusty Juggler - #2|2.7.17 @ 11:08AM|#

Stupid Ivan.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:10AM|#

Yeah, they'd run their usual light comedy/drama, then, one day, T.C. is a pre-programmed assassin.

•

Mike Schmidt|2.7.17 @ 11:26AM|#

Didn't they have a few episodes where they would flashback to some nasty shit one of them had gone though in 'Nam?

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:28AM|#

Sure. The bad-ass episodes.

•

Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:27AM|#

+1 Frank Sinatra hunting child molesters to "Tonight Tonight"

•

Rufus The Monocled|2.7.17 @ 11:11AM|#

Asshole killed Mac.

He had it coming.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:12AM|#

Well, Mac 1.0, anyway.

•

Chipwooder|2.7.17 @ 11:58AM|#

Magnum is a great show that I can watch anytime. And the wife is always happy to watch it with me so she can ogle young Tom Selleck in his shorty shorts.

•

Cynical Asshole|2.7.17 @ 12:16PM|#

Knight Rider and Airwolf were two shows that I loved when I was 10 but are just... horrible now. Completely unwatchable shit. Put The A-Team in the category too.

•

DeplorableMe|2.7.17 @ 2:00PM|#

Good thing you can't find old episodes of BJ and the Bear!

•

Hangin' with Agent Cooper|2.7.17 @ 4:08PM|#

Knight Ryder.

It's FUCKING Knight Rider you Eightiesphobe!

•

Suthenboy|2.7.17 @ 10:55AM|#

^This^

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 10:57AM|#

I was into hair metal back then, and when I listen to it now, it seems pretty terrible. (There are some notable exceptions though.)

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:12AM|#

I have been listening to a lot of early 80s straight forward rock recently. Foreigner especially.

I don't know why, it just wasn't trying too hard. Or maybe nostalgia.

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:13AM|#

I guess late 70s to early 80s for them.

•

Apple|2.7.17 @ 11:25AM|#

There are some notable exceptions though

I agree, although we might not have the same exceptions. I think RATT was a cut above the rest, for instance.

•

Mike Schmidt|2.7.17 @ 11:27AM|#

RATT-N-ROLL!!!!!!

•

$park¥ don't care bout yo mom|2.7.17 @ 11:39AM|#

Meh, I think Cinderella edges out Ratt.

•

Apple|2.7.17 @ 11:47AM|#

Cinderella is another one! I give them credit for seeing the writing on the wall before the rest of them. By their 2nd album, they were already moving away from hair metal and to something more roots based. Although, 'Don't Know what You've Got' is a pretty typical terrible 80s power ballad. 'Gypsy Road' is cool.

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 11:54AM|#

Yeah, I loved Ratt. Dokken had some pretty good guitar.

There were so many others I loved at the time: Scorpions, Cinderella, Skid Row, Motley Crue, Warrant, White Snake... others I'm sure.

But only one truly holds up today in my opinion: Metallica. Three genius albums in the 80s, true masterpieces.

•

Chipwooder|2.7.17 @ 12:00PM|#

Megadeth remains awesome.

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 12:06PM|#

For some reason, I missed out on Megadeth. I knew they were good.

http://loudwire.com/dave-musta.....niversary/

•

Cynical Asshole|2.7.17 @ 12:19PM|#

Wouldn't Metallica be considered more thrash metal as opposed to hair metal though? I know the lines between the various metal sub-genres can be a bit blurry, but to me they have a distinctly different kind of sound compared to those others you listed.

•

BearOdinson|2.7.17 @ 12:50PM|#

Yep. Metallica, Megadeth, Anthrax, and Slayer. The Four Horsemen of thrash metal.

•

Apple|2.7.17 @ 1:24PM|#

I still love Metallica, but I never considered them hair metal.

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 1:40PM|#

Y'all are right - Metallica is not hair metal. But they toured with hair metal bands at the time. BTW, Metallica just released a new album and I think it's shit. So there's that.

•

mad.casual|2.7.17 @ 11:21AM|#

It was the 80s. Everything about it was worse than we remember. That is how healing occurs, taking the edge off the worst moments in memory.

That said, I feel like the most recent Spuds MacKenzie ad, while good, indicates the progress of beer commercial technology has definitely slowed if not halted. The beer has been effectively fruited .

•

Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:26AM|#

To be fair, it was the eighties. We were all lightheaded from tight vinyl, hair spray fumes, and cocaine.

•

Acosmist|2.7.17 @ 10:46AM|#

Whimmy wham wham wazzle.

•

DiegoF|2.7.17 @ 11:07AM|#

You laugh, but that is where we are headed without stronger food ingredient regulations.

•

Cdr Lytton|2.7.17 @ 10:47AM|#

But what about Alex? Or Tone Lōc for that matter?

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 10:47AM|#

"Resurrecting this despicable icon of irresponsible alcohol marketing..."

These kinds of over-the-top, adjective-laden statements just make me laugh.

•

Mongo|2.7.17 @ 10:48AM|#

Had a digital illustration class and I said that you can't go wrong featuring a dog or cat in a piece.

A class favorite used as an example by the teacher showed a dog and cat dancing with each other - it was borderline infantile.

My classmates warmed up to me when I showed them my cover of a doggie catching a frisbee and a blonde hugging a big doggie.

•

Francisco d'Anconia|2.7.17 @ 10:49AM|#

Jesus fucking Christ...moar victimhood.

Just how much of an asshole does one have to be for this to be your shtick?

Fuck off and die in a fire. I'm glad you're incensed.

•

Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:28AM|#

Although doesn't this same commercial suggest that, if they DO die in a fire, they'll merely come back as ghosts in thirty years to start bitching at us again?

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 10:49AM|#

Show up at my party with Bud Light, and I may let you in, but the beer is staying on the porch. I'll probably use it to water the plants or something.

•

Zeb|2.7.17 @ 11:34AM|#

I think you are taking the wrong approach. As long as you don't show up with Bud Light and then drink my beer, it's all good. You want to make sure your guest drinks the crappy beer he came with.

•

Jerryskids|2.7.17 @ 10:50AM|#

Alcohol Justice is a massively endowed temperance-oriented organization that has picked up the anti-alcohol banner previously carried by earlier temperance groups. It is even recognized for its activities by the Prohibition Party. Yes, the Prohibition Party still exists and has thousands of members and millions of supporters.

Alcohol Justice is funded by the Buck Trust, whose founders directed that its resources be used exclusively for the good of the people of Marin County, California. In spite of that mandate, Alcohol Justice now engages in nation-wide temperance activities. The Buck Trust assets are reported to be about one billion dollars.

In addition, Alcohol Justice has received many millions of dollars of taxpayer's money at both state and federal levels. Millions of that have been channeled through the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, a very controversial agency.

Your tax dollars at work - this is one of those groups like Planned Parenthood or the Sierra Club whose "outreach and educational" work includes paying people to march around with signs protesting the policies of the current administration. Of course, the receipt of federal funds and federal tax-exempt status prohibits them from engaging in political campaigning so their opposition to the policies of the current administration are only coincidentally opposition to Trump.

•

yet another dave|2.7.17 @ 10:53AM|#

Spuds McKenzie caused me to drink too much bud light which caused me to murder my entire family which caused me to successfully commit suicide... true story

•

Bra Ket|2.7.17 @ 10:56AM|#

Be that as it may, Scippa is fostering a potentially life-threatening misconception by encouraging people to believe that a wooden stake through the heart will kill a zombie."

Especially when the zombie is clearly a ghost.

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 10:58AM|#

Maybe it's the ghost of a zombie. Whoaaaa.....

•

$park¥ don't care bout yo mom|2.7.17 @ 11:00AM|#

The only way to kill a zombie ghost is to pour sunlight on it. Ghost zombies, on the other hand, may just need the stake through the heart.

•

Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:29AM|#

You can't secure a stake in a ghost! It's a ghost!

•

Mickey Rat|2.7.17 @ 11:57AM|#

It is a terrible thing to mix up your basic undead classifications, but where are they going to get proton packs from?

•

$park¥ don't care bout yo mom|2.7.17 @ 10:59AM|#

Whaaaaaaasssuuuuuuuuuuupp

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 11:00AM|#

Wazzzuuuupppppppppp!!!!

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 11:00AM|#

Wazzzuuuupppppppppp!!!!

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 11:01AM|#

Squirrelz also say Wazzzzuuuupppppppppp!!!!

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:07AM|#

Waaaassssaaabi!

•

Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:30AM|#

Chhhhizzzzzzzzzzzzziiiiirrrrrrrpppppp!!!!

•

JW|2.7.17 @ 11:00AM|#

IT'S NOT A FEDORA, IT'S A FUCKING TRILBY. **A SHITTY, SAD TRILBY!**

•

albo|2.7.17 @ 11:09AM|#

I thought it was a pork pie.

•

DiegoF|2.7.17 @ 11:16AM|#

The line between trilbies and fedoras can be hard to discern, but porkpies look nothing like either. They are those inexpensive, informal, soft, flat top numbers. I think Malcolm's dad wears one on Breaking Bad, though I could be wrong.

•

DiegoF|2.7.17 @ 11:12AM|#

Does anybody but cardinals actually wear fedoras anymore? I feel like people wear trilbies and people call them fedoras. Matter of fact, I think we passed peak trilby about ten years ago. I feel like there is some unspoken joke about fedoras or something in what remains today of shared pop culture that I am not in on or something.

•

Episteme|2.7.17 @ 11:32AM|#

I remember trying to find a fedora for a last minute 1940's murder mystery party costume a few years back and being SO MAD that the stores only had trilbies.

•

Bill Dalasio|2.7.17 @ 12:11PM|#

Any of those hats that isn't a Homburg is just wasting its time. Although the Orvis Packable Felt Hat is acceptable in winter for keeping your head warm casually.

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 11:03AM|#

When I was a freshman in college in 1987, I remember buying cases of a beer called "Red White and Blue" for something like 4 bucks. It did the job.

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 11:05AM|#

It was cheaper than Ex-Lax?

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:06AM|#

Really, were you drinking high-quality beer at college age?

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 11:08AM|#

The blackouts prevent me from answering honestly.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:11AM|#

Indeed. Ye gods, did I drink some horrific beers.

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:22AM|#

Billy Beer was original created (it was made by a number of breweries) in my hometown.

Check and mate on horrific beers.

•

Spartacus|2.7.17 @ 11:32AM|#

Three words: Mickey's Big Mouth

•

Colossal Douchebag|2.7.17 @ 1:37PM|#

One of our favorites was generic. As in "BEER". Brown bottle, white label, black uppercase letters. "BEER".

We didn't call it beer, because that's not what it tasted like.
"Want another soap?"
"Sure, hit me."

When we realized it was more expensive than Blatz, we moved to that.

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:15AM|#

I wasn't drinking beer at all.

Late 80s in Georgia, there wasn't anything I liked.

I didnt discover good beer until I moved to Switzerland in 1991 and then Wisconsin in 1992.

•

Spartacus|2.7.17 @ 11:24AM|#

I was for a while. I thought that if I paid more for better quality, I would drink less. Took me about a month to learn otherwise.

•

Cynical Asshole|2.7.17 @ 12:24PM|#

flashes back to college Keystone Light... *shudders*

•

albo|2.7.17 @ 11:10AM|#

Red White and Blue was $2.15 a six pack at a bar in 1984.

report spam

log in or register to reply

•

Spartacus|2.7.17 @ 11:28AM|#

Old College Inn in Gainesville used to have $1.75 pitchers of Rolling Rock, circa 1981-82.

•

Chipwooder|2.7.17 @ 12:03PM|#

Yes, Red White and Blue was the knockoff Pabst, because PBR was just a bit too upscale for some people.

I can remember buying generic beer at Ralph's in college. Plain white can with blue letters saying BEER.

•

Colossal Douchebag|2.7.17 @ 1:39PM|#

+1 generic

•

Conchfritters|2.7.17 @ 12:33PM|#

Yes, Red White and Blue was prevalent in the late 80s in rural Minnesota. By the early 90s I discovered Rhinelander. The best of the bunch, in my opinion, was Special Export, although I am not even sure if they exported it, and where it was exported to.

•

jmomls|2.7.17 @ 2:10PM|#

LOL. Special Export was "exported" from La Crosse over the river into Minnehaha.

In return, y'all gave us Grain Belt and Pig's Eye.

•

Hangin' with Agent Cooper|2.7.17 @ 4:11PM|#

Four bucks? You got ripped off.

•

Hangin' with Agent Cooper|2.7.17 @ 4:11PM|#

Four bucks? You got ripped off.

•

albo|2.7.17 @ 11:06AM|#

Spuds helped in the late 80s because there was nothing else to drink but macrobrews. The craft beer industry has happened since then.

Nothing the big guys can do about increasing the sale of their rice and corn beers. They're just competing against each other for a dwindling number of core customers.

•

NoVaNick|2.7.17 @ 11:57AM|#

Nothing the big guys can do about increasing the sale of their rice and corn beers.

Yup, they might not get the kids but they will get the over 45s who have fond memories of high school parties and are worried about their beer guts, so switching to light beer makes sense for them.

•

Crusty Juggler - #2|2.7.17 @ 11:07AM|#

I was always more of a Schmitts Gay kind of guy.

•

Fatty Bolger|2.7.17 @ 11:16AM|#

If you're out of that, you can always slurp down a Griesedieck.

•

yet another dave|2.7.17 @ 11:11AM|#

Yea we used to get no name beer it was just a white or yellow box with "BEER" printed on the side, it was beerlike and cheap. Spuds made me alcoholic my ass. The addiction recovery/prevention industry has played a huge role in the "it's not my fault" attitude.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:14AM|#

This is how bad it gets. I once could tell you who the brewer was of the local distributor's (Maris) generic beer was.

•

Crusty Juggler - #2|2.7.17 @ 11:18AM|#

The addiction recovery/prevention industry has played a huge role in the "it's not my fault" attitude.

Also to blame: Will Hunting.

•

Crusty Juggler - #2|2.7.17 @ 11:14AM|#

Beast bottles or gtfo.

•

Shpip|2.7.17 @ 11:44AM|#

Milwaukee's Beast was my college cheap beer of choice. $4.19 for a twelve-pack, or $8.39 per case. I'd get two twelve-packs, and congratulate myself for saving a penny.

College students in general want their alcohol cheap and plentiful. Fratdaddies buying cases of Andre (for "mimosas") and Popov, and sorority chicks driving their Audi to one of my stores to get a bottle of Barefoot moscato are ~~the bane of my existance~~ one of the small annoyances in life.

•

Conchfritters|2.7.17 @ 12:40PM|#

I want my tequila from Mexico, my whiskey from Canada, and my vodka from Russia. If the bottle of vodka doesn't have a picture of the Kremlin on it, its not vodka.

All the girls I went to college with drank boones farm. Barefoot moscato?? No wonder the world is going in the toilet.

•

Number 2|2.7.17 @ 11:16AM|#

Mark Green, the left-wing Naderite who was New York City's "Consumer Advocate" in the early 1990s, fought a veritable jihad against poor Spuds, and was instrumental in having the ads pulled. He claimed that it was advertising "aimed at children" and would encourage underage drinking.

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:17AM|#

The history of Pabst is interesting.

They were owned by or owned just about every major regional player in the 70s, 80s and 90s.

•

Crusty Juggler - #2|2.7.17 @ 11:19AM|#

PBR me - ASAP.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:23AM|#

Fuck that shit. Pabst Blue Ribbon.

•

Crusty Juggler - #2|2.7.17 @ 11:44AM|#

That's a reference.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 12:16PM|#

Indeed it is.

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:20AM|#

Also fun beer history.

There was a moment in the 70s where the best selling beer in Evansville was Falls City out of Louisville. At the same time, the best selling beer in Louisville was Sterling out of Evansville.

•

Pro Libertate|2.7.17 @ 11:27AM|#

Other trivia: the Maris Distributing I mentioned above was owned by, yes, that Roger Maris. How he ended up in Hogtown, I do not know.

•

robc|2.7.17 @ 11:37AM|#

In addition to Billy Beer, Falls City was also responsible for the EZ Tab to replace the Pop Top.

Saving numerous flip flops owned by Jimmy Buffett.

•

Shinin' Pete|2.7.17 @ 11:30AM|#

This country seriously needs a Bobbitize a Busybody Act. Get caught with your nose in somebody else's business and Whack! Off with your weenie!

•

NoVaNick|2.7.17 @ 11:50AM|#

Just swap all the busybodies with the Syrian refugees-the busybodies will feel right at home with ISIS.

•

Apple|2.7.17 @ 11:31AM|#

Spuds is one of the reasons I started drinking. Not the commercials, the actual dog. We had some mutual friends and I met him at a party in Dallas in '91. He handed me a Shiner. He was past the fame thing at that point but was still pretty cool about people wanting autographs. Very down to earth. Died just a couple years later I think.

•

NoVaNick|2.7.17 @ 11:48AM|#

I was in high school when Spuds was pitching his piss. Never was tempted to try it because that was the first thing I thought of. I some adds for Busch beer too which I thought was long dead and gone since 1990 at least. Seems that AB is trying to hook a generation of kids on shitty beer, if you want to call it that- they need to pay for their crime damnit!

•

The_Unknown_Pundit|2.7.17 @ 11:55AM|#

Lousy commercial. Recycling 30 year old ideas. Pathetic. Most of the ads this year were forgettable.

•

Cynical Asshole|2.7.17 @ 12:05PM|#

> "The specter of a three-decade old, cuddly Spuds McKenzie—the sunglass-wearing, Joe Camel of Big Alcohol—pushing beer again is unacceptable," said Michael Scippa, Director of Public Affairs for Alcohol Justice. "Resurrecting this despicable icon of irresponsible alcohol marketing proves that breaking the toxic social norm that binds alcohol to sports must begin with creating a divide between sports and alcohol ads."...

Someone get this fuckwit some pearls to clutch, quick. FFS.

> "We call upon world leaders to recognize the public health and safety costs and eliminate alcohol advertising, sponsorships, branding and promotions from all sports," added Scippa.

Of course the dipshit includes a call for "world leaders" to "DO SOMETHING." Fuck off, saver.

> I know that Strom Thurmond did not like him

That's a ringing endorsement as far as I'm concerned. Anything that old klansman fuck didn't like can't be bad.

•

Chipwooder|2.7.17 @ 12:09PM|#

I liked the Spuds commercials when I was a kid because my uncle had a bull terrier that looked just like him.

•

PHP2050|2.7.17 @ 12:14PM|#

A name like Alcohol Justice called to mind a group dedicated to freeing booze from state distribution monopolies. I have been deceived.

•

FreeRadical|2.7.17 @ 12:24PM|#

Yeah! You should start something called Justice for Alcohol. It'd be fun to create mock versions of everything Alcohol Justice does, but with the opposite message and a bit of serious commentary about the free market under the biting humor.

•

PHP2050|2.7.17 @ 12:37PM|#

"Libation Liberation"

•

Bill Dalasio|2.7.17 @ 12:19PM|#

I very, very, highly doubt the new Spuds commercials are aimed at anyone younger than 45. This isn't about capturing the youth market, which I'm pretty sure would find the talking ghost dog creepy, if anything. Hell, the premise of the commercial even seems to be about a guy who no longer hangs out. This is a nostalgia bid. Anyone should be able to figure that out, unless they're being less than sincere.

•

Cynical Asshole|2.7.17 @ 12:33PM|#

Anyone should be able to figure that out, unless they're being less than sincere.

Or just plain stupid. Or both... actually I'm gonna go with "both," final answer.

•

Juvenile Bluster|2.7.17 @ 12:19PM|#

I saw a Spuds McKenzie commercial when I was 10, drank 3 alcohols and died. True story.

•

BigW|2.7.17 @ 12:27PM|#

If Budweisers promotions were being run by a cabal of their worst enemies, how could you tell the difference.

Makes me wish I drank beer so I could boycott them.

•

Diane Reynolds (Paul.)|2.7.17 @ 12:30PM|#

So... we get this shock and horror over the idea that an ad might be inducing people to drink alcohol with the possible secondary purpose of getting drunk.

Yet I'm driving through town and looking at billboards which explicitly indicate that the purpose of legal weed is to get blasted.

Imagine an Absolut ad whose entire pitch was to tell you how fucked up you can get.

Strange days.

•

The Fusionist|2.7.17 @ 12:55PM|#

"You might think a group that sees Spuds MacKenzie as the caninification of all that is evil about the alcohol industry would take the trouble to spell his name right. And since Joe Camel came after Spuds MacKenzie, wouldn't it be more accurate to say that Joe Camel was the Spuds MacKenzie of Big Tobacco? Be that as it may, Scippa is fostering a potentially life-threatening misconception by encouraging people to believe that a wooden stake through the heart will kill a zombie."

Watch Jacob Sullum TOTALLY DESTROY a prohibitionist...click here for more...

•

jmomls|2.7.17 @ 2:09PM|#

All them bull terriers is dangerous, I tells ya.

Just look at what Petey did to Alfalfa and Buckwheat!

•

eyeroller|2.7.17 @ 2:22PM|#

We call upon world leaders to recognize the public health and safety costs and eliminate alcohol advertising, sponsorships, branding and promotions from all sports

We all know that politicians should never be called "leaders". So maybe these guys are talking about other "world leaders", like maybe the people in charge of beer manufacturers, or super-duper athletes. In which case their message doesn't bother me much.

•

Joao|2.7.17 @ 2:31PM|#

Multicultural too. Even in the 80's
Go Spuds!!!

•

Joao|2.7.17 @ 3:20PM|#

Also, prohibitionist argument similar to apple flavored vaping.

Some of us like non-classic flavors, even if we are not in our teens or twenties.

...and I don't even vape.

- **Hangin' with Agent Cooper|2.7.17 @ 4:14PM|#**

  Long before Melissa McCarthy caused a stir by putting on a loose suit and a bad temper to impersonate White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, a female English bull terrier named Honey Tree Evil Eye drew cheers and catcalls by putting on a beach shirt and and a laid-back attitude to play Spuds MacKenzie,

  What the fuck is this tangential bullshit? One has little to do with the other, unless you're trying to out-Soave the Hair.

  The double "and" is a nice touch, Sullum.

- **Trigger Warning|2.7.17 @ 6:22PM|#**

  The dog made me drink that shitty beer!

©2017 Reason Foundation.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Polar bear to switch Danish zoos after ‘divorce’

thelocal.dk

news.denmark@thelocal.com
6 January 2017
12:08 CET+01:00

The Local
6 January 2017
12:08 CET+01:00
Poor Ivan the polar bear. His female partner Noel had lost all interest in him, leading to lonely and sad times at the Copenhagen Zoo.
For months, it was obvious that the two were no longer getting along and couldn’t make their relationship work.

Now they’ll part ways in a polar bear divorce of sorts, TV2 Østjylland reported.

Ivan will be relocated from the Copenhagen Zoo to the Scandinavian Wildlife Park in Djursland, where he’ll join the park’s other polar bears in the 26,000 sqm enclosure.

Copenhagen Zoo spokesman Bengt Holst told broadcaster DR that the move is for the best for both bears.

“Our polar bears don’t match socially. They simply don’t like each other in particular our female bear tries to avoid the male. And that’s a problem. She often swims back and forth in the enclosure because she is stressed,” he said back in October when zoo visitors began to comment on the obvious unhappiness of the bears.

Frank Vigh-Larsen, the CEO of the Scandinavian Wildlife Park, said he looks forward to welcoming Ivan with open arms when he arrives as early as next week.

“He is not thriving in Copenhagen and he has visited us before and enjoyed it. So I’m sure that it will go well,” he told TV2 Østjylland.

Awaiting Ivan will be four-year-old female Nuno, who will become sexually mature this year.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Polite' moose falls into family basement in Idaho - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC

A family in the US state of Idaho had quite a shock when they awoke to find a moose had fallen into their home.

The animal tumbled through an unlatched window into the basement of the property in the community of Hailey, in the state of Idaho.

According to the Idaho Mountain Express, the female moose spent about three hours in the house after the mishap early on Sunday morning.

Wildlife officials sedated the animal before releasing it unharmed.

Homeowner Julie Emerick told the Mountain Express: "She was absolutely the most polite, gracious beast that you could have in your house."

Blaine County Sheriff's deputies and Idaho Department of Fish and Game officers initially tried to shoo the moose upstairs.

But Fish and Game said on its Facebook page: "The moose was having none of it, charging the officers several times."

When that failed, a wildlife officer shot the moose with a tranquilliser dart.

Image caption

Ms Emerick said eight officers carried the approximately 600lb (270kg) animal up the stairs.

"With a lot of grunting and groaning they got her up the stairs and out the door," she said.

Ms Emerick said the groggy beast came round and ran off about a quarter of an hour later.

The night-time intruder caused hardly any damage to the basement room, she added.

Heavy snow has driven moose and other wildlife into populated areas in search of food, according to wildlife officials.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

Image copyright Idaho Fish and Game

Pollution From Dead Ivy League Lab Mice Worries Neighborhood

2016-12-26 go.com

http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/pollution-ivy-league-labs-dump-worries-neighbors-44400707

- By michael casey, associated press

HANOVER, N.H. — Dec 26, 2016, 10:29 AM ET

Neighbors of Dartmouth College property where for years the Ivy League school disposed of mice and other small animals used in science experiments say they fear pollution from the site has contaminated their groundwater and they worry the school hasn't been completely up front with them.

The site has contaminated the well water of at least one family, that of Richard and Debbie Higgins, who blame a variety of health problems on it, including rashes, hair and skin loss and dizziness. Even their dogs were not spared, they say, with one urinating blood and another vomiting.

"We have been drinking the water for years and we had no idea, absolutely no idea," Debbie Higgins said.

Few nearby residents even knew the half-acre plot on the college's Rennie Farm was used from the 1960s until 1978 to dump carcasses from "tracer experiments," in which scientists used radioactive compounds to see how things moved through life systems. A nearby site also contained remains of human cadavers and stillborn fetuses used in medical classes.

The obscurity of the fenced site changed in 2011, when Dartmouth chose to clean it up, removing 40 tons of carcasses and soil from scores of unlined pits that were legal at the time they were dug. That led to the discovery of hazardous waste and low-level radioactive materials and eventually evidence that at least one chemical used in the animal experiments, the suspected carcinogen 1,4-dioxane, had leaked into the groundwater.

It was initially found at 50 times the state standard of 3 parts per billion on the site and more recently as high as 600 parts per billion in the ground. The chemical has been linked to eye, nose and throat irritation and, in long-term exposure, to liver and kidney damage, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The 1,4-dioxane was eventually found to have migrated off the site and contaminated the Higginses' well across the street, about 800 feet from the site — at twice the state standard. They learned in September 2015 that their well was polluted, and now depend on bottled water supplied by Dartmouth for cooking and drinking.

The news has rattled the semi-rural neighborhood, sparking anger and fear among dozens of homeowners who worry the plume will reach their own wells and damage their property values. Many contend Dartmouth was too slow to respond once it found the contamination and has been reluctant to provide full details of what was on the site — something the college denies.

"Right now, everyone is very confused and concerned," said Ellen Waitzkin, a radiologist who lives across from the site. "They are trying to determine on what basis they should feel threatened or not."

The Higginses and other residents argue an alert about the spreading contamination should have gone out earlier. New Hampshire environmental and Dartmouth officials said initial test showed the levels of 1,4-dioxane were declining on the site and were projected to remain on the farm site — though state officials now concede there could have been more aggressive monitoring.

Now, Dartmouth is working to regain the trust of Higgins and the other residents. It apologized in September for its handling of the case, established a neighborhood advisory panel and sampled 110 drinking wells in the neighborhood; no others have tested positive. It also offered 20 households bottled water.

It is also finishing construction on a system at the dump site to capture and clean the contaminated water. When it begins operating in January, wells will pull contaminated groundwater into the system and filter it. The treated water will then be returned to the ground, a process that could take several years.

"We are committed to protecting the health of our neighbors, addressing their concerns, and communicating regularly and openly with them about the project," college spokeswoman Diana Lawrence said of the cleanup, which so far has cost $8.4 million.

But for the Higginses and their neighbors, the college hasn't gone far enough. Some want more soil removed, while others want Dartmouth to offer compensation for their deteriorating property values — demands the college says it is considering.

The Higginses say their health problems have mostly disappeared since they switched to bottled water. But they call that a short-term fix and want the college to move them to a new home a safe distance from the site of the contamination.

"We want to become whole if there is such a thing," Richard Higgins said. "We want to get on with our lives. Right now, our life is in limbo."

Copyright (c) 2016 ABC News Internet Ventures

Portugal woman swept out to sea in religious ceremony

yahoo.com

AFPFebruary 3, 2017

Most of Portugal's coast was on "red alert" Thursday because of large waves, heavy rain and strong winds (AFP Photo/FRANCISCO LEONG)

Lisbon (AFP) - Portuguese authorities searched Friday for a woman swept out to the Atlantic, reportedly during a religious ceremony honouring a goddess of the sea in the middle of a storm.

The 34-year-old was one of four people who were swept away by a wave on the Costa Nova beach in central Portugal on Thursday night while the coast was lashed by strong winds and huge waves, local officials said.

Three people managed to make it back to land but the woman has not been seen since.

Portuguese media said the four were part of a group of ten people who ignored warnings to stay away from the coast because of the rough weather and held a ceremony in honour of Iemanja, an Afro-Brazilian goddess of the sea.

Candles, fresh fruit, necklaces and a box with two pairs of shoes were found near spot where the group had gathered, daily newspaper Jornal de Noticias reported.

"We are determining what happened. What we know is that ten people were gathered and four were swept up by a wave. Despite all the warnings, this situation occurred," Carlos Jose Isabel, commander of the nearby port of Aveiro who is leading the search effort, told reporters.

Devotees celebrate Iemanja, the supreme deity in the Candomble religion, every February 2 by wearing white and sending flowers out into the ocean for good luck.

Portugal counts an estimated 1,000 followers of the faith, which came to the country via its former colony Brazil -- although officials say it is difficult to know exactly how many worshippers there are.

Most of Portugal's coast was on "red alert", the weather office's highest alert level, on Thursday because of large waves, heavy rain and strong winds.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Pounds of meth hidden in snail statue found in Cincinnati

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 12, 2017

CINCINNATI (AP) — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials say officers in Cincinnati intercepted more than 50 pounds of methamphetamine that was concealed inside a statue of a snail.

Authorities say the package, which came from Mexico and was labeled "Mexican stone crafts," contained a decorative snail statue that exhibited "interior anomalies" during an X-ray inspection on Dec. 30.

Customs officers drilled a hole into the statue and found 53 pounds of a white crystalline powder that tested positive for meth.

Richard Gillespie, CBP's Cincinnati Port Director, says the agency's officers excel at preventing dangerous packages from reaching innocent citizens.

The snail's intended destination was Lawrenceville, Georgia.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Preacher asked his followers to prove their faith by drinking rat poison

metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.ukThursday 9 Feb 2017 11:20 pm

He held up a box of Rattex rat poison (Picture: CEN)

A Christian pastor urged followers to prove their faith in god by drinking 'deadly' rat poison.

The man, known as Prophet Light Monyeki, mixed up a solution of Rattex rat poison in a plastic bottle in front of the congregation.

He told them to drink the poison to 'show forth their faith' – and many willingly did so, according to the church's social media page.

The 'prophet' reportedly told the Grace Living Hope Ministries in Soshanguve, South Africa: 'We do not need to proclaim faith because we are believers.'

His strange actions were apparently a reference to a street drug called nyaope, made with heroin and rat poison.

'If nyaope boys can smoke Rattex for more than eight years, who are we?' he said. 'Death has no power over us.'

It is not known whether anybody became ill as a result of drinking rat poison at the service, or how concentrated the solution was.

It is unclear if the authorities are involved.

He got people to prove their faith by drinking rat poison (Picture: CEN)
He also drank some himself (Picture: CEN)

But many people commenting on the church's social media page were not convinced.

'When I think correctly Jesus never used poisonous things to demonstrate miracles,' one commenter said. 'HE touched the people and they were healed.'

One believer defended the 'prophet' by saying: 'General Light Monyeki. Nothing can stop us. Appointed by God, not people or media.

‘So if God allows it, we gonna do it. The more you talk bad about our family, the more crazy God makes us.

‘If you think it’s demonic or satanic, come deliver us then. We are willing to kneel down before you and get deliverance. But if u can’t do that, keep your opinion to yourself.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Priest accused of hosting orgies and pimping out 15 women

BY Jessica Schladebeck

nydailynews.com

BY Jessica Schladebeck
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Tuesday, January 3, 2017, 11:39 AM

An Italian Catholic priest is under investigation for allegedly organizing orgies in his church's rectory and acting as a pimp for up to 15 women.

Authorities are investigating Father Andrea Contin, a 48-year-old parish priest at the Church of San Lazzaro in Padua, for living off immoral earnings and psychological violence following complaints from three female parishioners, The Times reported.

A variety of sex toys, pornography obscured with covers featuring the names of past popes, and videos reportedly showing orgies taking place on the church premises have been seized by police, according to local media reports.

The 48-year-old priest also allegedly pimped out up to 15 women on wife-swapping websites and enjoyed expensive holidays with his lovers in exotic locations including Croatia, France and Austria. Among his trips abroad was a stop at a naturist and swingers resort in Cap d'Adge, located on the Southern coast of France, according to International Business Times.

Pagan priest wins OK to wear goat horns in driver's license photo

A bishop first received complaints about Contin earlier this summer, but church authorities didn't contact the police so they could first complete their own investigation, the Times reported.

Father Andrea Contin (not pictured) was accused of pimping out up to 15 women in addition to hosting orgies on his church's property.

Contin was, however, asked to leave the parish pending a thorough investigation, though "that does not amount to a conviction," according to a statement from the Diocese of Padua.

One 49-year-old church volunteer during an anonymous interview with local media claimed she had an affair with the priest and confirmed that they had sex in the rectory.

"There were a lot of women hovering around him," she said. "I didn't understand that at first, only later."

Contin has not been arrested, but a prosecutor is reportedly looking into the allegations.

© Copyright 2017 NYDailyNews.com. All rights reserved.

Prisoners burrow out of jail by removing loo

sky.com

Six inmates remove a lavatory and then bash through concrete before crawling to freedom through a hole.

03:54, UK, Tuesday 27 December 2016

The bolts on the toilet had become rusty

A manhunt is under way after six prisoners escaped from a US jail by removing a toilet and crawling though a hole behind it.

The inmates escaped the prison in Cocke County, Tennessee, early on Christmas morning.

Bolts holding the toilet had rusted and the prisoners were able to remove it.

They then busted a hole through the concrete behind it, which had been damaged during plumbing repairs.

Authorities were able to capture five of the six inmates but one remains on the run. It was unclear what the men were charged with.

© 2016 Sky UK

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Michigar

Prospective homeowner finds mummified body inside car parked in garage

(Tanya Moutzalias | MLive file)

By **Benjamin Raven | braven@mlive.com**
Email the author | **Follow on Twitter**
on December 30, 2016 at 3:04 PM

Detroit police report that a man interested in buying a home in the city discovered a mummified body inside a parked car in a garage.

The Associated Press, via the **Detroit Free Press,** reports the man went into the garage sometime Thursday and found the decomposed body inside the car. The **Free Press reports** the body was found in the 19900 block of Spencer inside either a 1990 or 1991 Plymouth Acclaim.

The Detroit Police Department has not returned any messages seeking comment or additional detail in the incident.

Police spokesman Dan Donakowski said, via A.P., that the previous tenants of the home never entered the garage because they were told they couldn't use it.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office reports that it is unclear whether the body belonged to a man or woman, but an autopsy is scheduled for next week.

Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2016 MLive Media Group. All rights reserved (**About Us**).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of MLive Media Group.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

Ad Choices

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

‘Psychic cat’ sold for £67k to ‘well groomed blonde witch’ to use in séances

express.co.uk

express_logo

‘Psychic cat’ sold for £67k to ‘well groomed blonde witch’ to use in séances

A "PSYCHIC cat" has been bought by a clairvoyant for an astonishing £66,750 in Russia after spooking its owner, say reports.

By Will Stewart
PUBLISHED: 00:01, Thu, Jan 26, 2017 | UPDATED: 15:13, Thu, Jan 26, 2017

PH

‘Psychic cat’ sold for £67k to ‘well groomed blonde witch’ to use in séances

Dmitry R claimed his marriage was in jeopardy from the tabby which he inherited from his aunt when she died.

The case has gone viral in Russia after he claimed the cat could suddenly appear from behind locked doors, while also playing mind games that forced him to go shopping in the middle of the night to buy its favourite food.

The owner said he loathes fish and sausages but the cat made him hungry for these foods.

"He would wake me up at 5 am giving me a strong desire to eat fish or sausage," he said.

"So much so that I had to go out right then to buy it, and give it to the cat.

The cat was bought by a clairvoyant for an astonishing £66,750 in Russia after spooking its owner

"And as soon as the cat started to eat, my hunger disappeared."

> She is a clairvoyant, and came with all her paraphernalia
>
> Dmitry R

Called Charles Utkins, the cat made his wife feel uneasy in their home in Blagoveshchensk and he decided to get rid of it.

He claimed a clairvoyant - or Siberian "witch" as she was called by the local media - arrived on his doorstep from her home in Novosibirsk 2,800 miles away, and after examining the cat, decided it had "supernatural" powers, and paid him five million roubles for the animal.

The "young, well groomed blonde witch" refused to be named but intends to use the cat in her séances, he said.

"She is a clairvoyant, and came with all her paraphernalia," he said.

"She shut the cat in the room, and then rapidly decided to buy it."

The woman told him: "This cat will pay its way."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Public previews set before auction of wax president figures

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 3, 2017

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — A shuttered Pennsylvania museum that features wax figures of all 44 U.S. presidents and their first ladies will display the figures before they're auctioned off in mid-January.

The Hall of Presidents and First Ladies Museum in Gettysburg closed in November after visitors dwindled. It had been in business for about 60 years.

The collection features life-sized figures of the presidents and one-third-scale figures of the first ladies in reproduction inaugural gowns, as well as other presidential memorabilia.

Previews of the wax figures will be held at the museum Jan. 8 from noon to 5 p.m. and Jan. 12 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The figures will be auctioned off on Jan. 14.

People interested in more information can contact PA Onsite Auction Company .

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The punniest jokes from this year's annual pun championships

metro.co.uk

Charles WhiteMonday 13 Feb 2017 6:11 pm

The annual contest takes place tonight (Picture: Metro/Pun Championships)

Today marks the annual UK Punday.

(Yes, it's Punday Monday…)

Marking four years of groaning and guffawing, the Pun Championships are back with a vengeance.

This year's final, which will take place tonight in Leicester, features eight of the punniest comedians in the land.

They spoke to Metro.co.uk ahead of the show to share their favourite one-liners.

Julian Lee

Geordie Julian Lee was a hit on Twitter (Pictures: UK Pun Championships)

Soon Labradors won't be the UK's most popular dog Geordie Julian, 49, boasted of having more than 400 people favourite this Swedish themed pun on Twitter.

He said: 'Why do they have barcodes on the returning Swedish fleet? So they can Scan-the-navy-in.'

Samantha Baines

Actor Samantha, who starred as a dying housemate in Netflix drama The Crown, liked a more long-winded entry.

Samantha Baines went for a dog based joke (Pictures: UK Pun Championships)

She said: 'I wrote a new one for today which I'm currently enjoying: I'm trying to convince my huisband to get a dog and I'm doing it sublimly with wallpaper. And I've got wallpaper with an Irish Terrirer on it. I'll admit I've got an ul-terrier motive

Iain MacDonald

Glaswegian Iain, 36, said although he can't choose his best pun one that he enjoys telling is: 'I like my women like I like my generalisations. Bi and Large.'

Colin Leggo

Having done stand-up for 14 years, Colin is now dropping his job of teaching his fellow Cornish people that jokes don't have to solely be story based, to compete.

His favourite joke was a new one: ‘I went to a pizzeria and my pizza had been quartered and each quarter contained an image of a French post-impressionist artist’. I thought I had ordered the Four Cezannes.

Richard Pulsford

Others were more succinct. Fife-based Richard joked: ‘I sent a food parcel to my first wife. Fed Ex.’

If you think you can do better, Twitter is using the hashtag #UKPunday to share their favourite puns.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The Queen Of Sweden Says Her Palace Is Haunted

huffingtonpost.com

Don’t worry... they’re friendly ghosts.

01/06/2017 04:25 am ET
Ed MazzaOvernight Editor, The Huffington Post

Living in a 350-year-old royal palace probably has plenty of perks, but there might also be a downside.

Queen Silvia of Sweden says Drottningholm Palace, the royal residence she shares with her husband, King Carl XVI Gustaf, is haunted.

“There’s a lot of history here. There are also little friends… the ghosts,” the queen said in a documentary that aired on Swedish television on Thursday, per TheLocal. “They’re all very friendly, but you sometimes feel like you aren’t alone.”

The king’s sister, Princess Christina, agreed.

“There are ghosts in all old houses. Definitely,” she was quoted as saying. “There’s a lot of energy in that house and it would be strange if it didn’t express itself in the form of sounds and shapes.”

Previous reports have claimed that a “gray man” and “white lady supposedly haunt the palace.

Construction on the current Drottningholm Palace began in 1662, replacing a 16th-century palace that burned down in 1661, according to the Swedish Royal Court. It has been home to the royal family since 1981, although much of the palace and its grounds are open to the public.

Drottningholm is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Rare and horny ox spotted looking for ladies in Sweden

thelocal.se

http://www.thelocal.se/20160926/rare-and-horny-ox-spotted-looking-for-ladies-in-sweden

The ox in question. Photo: Pia Jäderberg

The Local
26 September 2016
16:42 CEST+02:00

A rare pungent smelling ox has been pictured wandering around a town in rural Sweden as it haplessly hunts for a new mate.

The muskox gets its name from the strong smell the male members of the species omit during the summer mating season in an effort to attract females.

But it seems one Swedish bull's aroma as well as his radar aren't quite up to scratch. The animal, which has been sighted in recent days in the vicinity of Lillhärdal, Jämtland in western Sweden, has apparently wandered down the wrong road in his attempts to find a mate.

"He is looking for ladies and there are none of those in Lillhärdal, so he's expected to move on," Claes Ahlström, a communications officer at Jämtland County, told radio station P4.

Photo: Pia Jäderberg

As reports of sightings begin to spread the ox has become something of a local celebrity. Jämtland County has warned residents not to seek the bull out in case it becomes irritated, but so far, accounts suggest the hairy lover is in a fairly solemn mood.

"My brother spotted it. It came up to him to say hello and just stood there nicely," Pia Jäderberg, who managed to take a picture of the animal, told The Local.

"It was calm, it just wandered off," she said, adding that this was the first time she had seen one of the creatures.

That's no surprise. The wild muskox population in Sweden was last estimated to stand at only nine, down significantly from around 30 in the 1980s. The animals crossed over into the country from Norway after being introduced there in the 1940s.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Real-life Perry Mason pleads guilty to $110K jewelry theft

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 13, 2017

NEWPORT, Vt. (AP) — This Perry Mason has pleaded guilty and been convicted.

Perry Mason of Hardwick, Vermont — not to be confused with the fictional television criminal defense lawyer played by Raymond Burr — pleaded guilty Thursday to breaking into a Greensboro jewelry store in 2014 and stealing $110,000 worth of items.

The Caledonian Record reports (http://bit.ly/2jMxG6I) the 48-year-old Mason received a sentence of two to 30 years, most of it suspended. Before reaching a plea agreement, Mason had been facing up to life in prison as a habitual offender with three or more prior felony convictions, including burglaries.

Mason was arrested after some of the jewelry was sold to a Burlington pawn shop. The shop owner recognized it and alerted police. Since then, two other men have been charged with possessing stolen property.

___

Information from: The Caledonian-Record, http://www.caledonianrecord.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The councils using terror law to spy on members of the public

17:52 EST, 25 December 2016 |

dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

The councils using terror law to spy on barking dogs and people who feed pigeons: Local authorities given permission to carry out 55,000 hours of surveillance over the past five years

- **An investigation uncovered that some councils have been spying on the public**
- **Councils launched 2,800 separate surveillance operations lasting up to 90 days**
- **Former Metropolitan police chief Brian Paddick called it 'absurd'**

By Kate Pickes For Daily Mail

Covert surveillance powers designed to combat terrorism and organised crime have been used by councils to spy on people feeding pigeons and failing to clear up dog mess, an investigation found.

Local authorities were granted permission to carry out more than 55,000 days of covert surveillance over a five-year period using the Government's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (Ripa).

A Freedom of Information request has revealed that two-thirds of the 283 councils that responded had used the powers to gather evidence on members of the public.

Allerdale Borough Council in Cumbria targeted people feeding pigeons, the FOI found

Lancaster City Council used the Act for 'targeted dog fouling enforcement' in two areas over a period of 11 days.

Allerdale Borough Council in Cumbria targeted people feeding pigeons, while Midlothian Council went after owners of noisy dogs.

Wolverhampton went undercover to check on the sale of dangerous toys and car clocking, in which rogue dealers knock many miles off odometers, leaving owners defrauded and facing serious repair bills.

The Liberal Democrats asked for the figures, published by The Guardian, which revealed councils had launched 2,800 separate surveillance operations lasting up to 90 days each.

Brian Paddick, a former Metropolitan police chief who represents the party on home affairs, said some use of the powers was absurd.

'It is absurd that local authorities are using measures primarily intended for combating terrorism for issues as trivial as a dog barking or the sale of theatre tickets,' he said.

‘Spying on the public should be a last resort not an everyday tool,' said Brian Paddick, pictured

‘Spying on the public should be a last resort not an everyday tool.’

A Home Office spokesman pointed out that the law had since changed and Ripa could only now be used if criminal activity was suspected.

The Investigatory Powers Bill — dubbed the snoopers’ charter by critics — has incorporated Ripa with a raft of new measures including allowing police to check things such as the browsing history on people’s phones.

It was passed by Parliament last month. While critics have cited it as an attack on privacy, the Government believes the charter is essential for combating terrorism and organised crime.

But Lord Paddick said he was worried authorities could use powers in a way that Parliament did not intend and called for measures to ensure any surveillance was measured and proportionate.

Other councils used Ripa to check on the legitimacy of benefit claimants, while Slough investigated an illegal puppy farm.

Midlothian Council used Government’s Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (Ripa) to target owners of noisy dogs

Lincolnshire County Council topped the list for the largest number of days requested with nearly 4,000 as part of a sting on underage alcohol sales and counterfeit cigarettes.

Mark Keal from Lincolnshire Trading Standards, defended its use, saying it helped successful prosecutions which got ‘products off the streets’.

Bromley used the powers to deploy a covert camera to catch a ‘serial fly-tipper’ and as part of a crackdown on antisocial behaviour.

Deputy council leader Colin Smith told The Guardian the powers were too restrictive and that the victims of crime were in favour of filming evidence to aid prosecutions.

Most local authorities said they would typically request more days of surveillance than were used.

The Home Office said there was a rigorous authorisation procedure and independent inspection before powers were granted.

‘Ripa powers are an important tool that local authorities can use to address the issues that affect many people’s lives, like consumer protection, environmental crime and benefit fraud,’ a spokesman said.

Comments (

nikkikiera, Udon Thani, Thailand, 29 minutes ago

Why don't the Council follow the Hunt, they will catch many dogs and horses pooing , plus people dropping sweetie wrappings, empty bottles etc.?????? Silly me, that would mean them getting out of their chair and walking, instead of sitting, watching CCTV.!!!!!!!

dollar, grren man leytonstone, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

nice easy job , watching thousands of hours of footage of dogs having a shiiit

loreng, phoenix, United States, about 2 hours ago

Drain the swamp

Albert Pike, Papeete, French Polynesia, about 5 hours ago

I'm a Dog owner but I am disgusted by the people who do not pick up after their Dogs,as far as I am concerned they should be flogged!

hotrod, Newcastle, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

So the Council blockheads want to stop us feeding pigeons--I'd like to hear their legal arguments on that one.So in the meantime we'll keep on feeding the robins and jackdaws and sparrows but make sure we don't feed the pigeons!Sorted

davedav, lincoln, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

What part of meant for terrorism and organised crime don't some of you understand?

whatreally, aberystwyth, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

If the idiots who authorised this ridiculous over the top spying on ordinary people had to pay for this farce they would think twice , typical usless councils

Ethyl_p, London, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

I will feed the pigeons if I want

Scotty Green, Aberdeen, United Kingdom, about 7 hours ago

Feeding pigeons.....may as well feed the rats too.

Elizabeth, Cambridge, about 7 hours ago

Nothing wrong with surveillance if it makes our lives safer. If it is used to stop antisocial behaviour I am all for it. Barking dogs can be a nuisance, I am glad Councils are dealing with that.

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Researchers Hilariously Debate Whether Or Not To Kill Bigfoot

huffingtonpost.com

Because if the giant creature is one of us, then that's murder, right?

01/26/2017 05:49 pm ET
David Moye Reporter, The Huffington Post

There's a big debate going on in the Bigfoot community: Should you kill the hairy creature (assuming, of course, you can actually find one)?

That's the argument running through "Killing Bigfoot," a six-part series debuting Feb. 4 on Destination America.

The show follows a team of monster hunters known as the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organization (GCBRO) as they attempt to track down and shoot a Sasquatch-type creature supposedly attacking people's homes, farm animals and pets in the deep South.

Not everyone approves of the team's mission. In the clip above, neuropsychologist Dr. Samuel Webb Sentell, a former member of GCBRO, pleads with group leader Jim Landsdale and member Donald McDonald not to kill a Bigfoot.

As debates go, this one gets hairy:

> WEBB: "Here's the thing, here's the reason you can't shoot one: They are intelligent, they seem to have families, they are human. They are either human or human hybrid."
>
> JIM: "And they're all theories. Everything you just said was theory. Everything. You can't prove anything."
>
> WEBB: "It is theory. It is theory. No, we can't prove it. No, you can't. But guess what?"
>
> JIM: "Then why do you, you, you scatter this like you're fertilizing a field, Webb?"

The debate grows even more heated when Webb argues that killing a Bigfoot could conceivably be murder.

> WEBB: "I'm trying to keep you from being a murderer."
>
> JIM: "No! I'm not a murderer!"
>
> WEBB: "You're going to be!"
>
> JIM: "Here's the point I'm trying to make: What we do is hunting nuisance animals. Do you know what a nuisance animal is?"
>
> WEBB: "They're not nuisance animals."
>
> JIM: "You're crazy. You don't know what you're talking about. They come up, beat on your house, and your children are afraid to go outside. He's killing your pets, your ducks, your geese. That's not a nuisance?"

Webb then suggests that diplomacy might be the best way to handle a trespassing Bigfoot.

“Here’s what you don’t believe,” he says. “All you gotta do is ask them quit eatin’ your chickens, and they will quit eatin’ your chickens.”

The Legend of Bigfoot Continues

Bigfoot Raises Its Hairy Head To Kick Off 2014
You just can’t keep a good, hairy beast down — that is, unless it’s allegedly real, and it’s supposedly dead. 2014 got off to a big, Bigfoot start, with promoter Rick Dyer claiming to have killed one of the beasts and was taking the body on tour for the public to pay and see (including its less than stellar manhood). Problem was, when push came to shove, Dyer apparently couldn’t get many venues interested enough in his Bigfoot traveling show, and it ended up being a no-show. Dyer eventually admitted to the hoax.
Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Restaurant boss to phase out tipping because it's 'racist'

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukWednesday 18 Jan 2017 7:15 pm

CEO of Shake Shack said he's trying to phase out tipping (Picture: Getty Images)

The founder of Shake Shack said he is trying to stop customers from leaving tips at his restaurants because of its 'racist' history.

Tipping is so ingrained in our culture, most of us do it after a meal without giving it a second thought.

But leaving the waiter a tip harks back to the American Civil War when the US government accepted a petition from restaurant owners not to pay servers, CEO Danny Meyer said.

Instead, their wages would be left to the discretion of customers, and this small fee meant no one could argue they were a victim of slavery.

Mr Meyer, Shake Shack CEO, has been phasing out the practise at his restaurants because of this problematic history, he revealed on The Sporkful podcast

The roots of tipping can be traced back to the American Civil War (Picture: Thomas Habr)

He said: 'And no surprise, most of the people who were working in service professional jobs and restaurants and Pullman train cars were African-American.

'You don't see it in Asia, you don't see it primarily in most European countries. But that's what it was, it created a completely false economy so that when you see a menu price at a restaurant, you know and I know that it includes the cost of the food, the cost of the linen, the rent, but it doesn't include the service and here's what finally moved me to my own tipping point a year ago.'

Meyer claimed that non-white front of house staff get less money from customers on average.

And he said dishwashers and other employers who work behind the scenes are most affected by poor wages, because they're not topped up with tips.

The alleged racist history of tipping was highlighted in 'Forked: A New Standard for American Dining', by Saru Jayaraman. She said freed slaves were among the first restaurant workers to get tips, and it was a way to avoid paying them a wage.

In 2015, it emerged that some chain restaurants in the UK were not passing on all their tips to staff. Many, including Cote and Pizza Express, have now changed their policies as a result of the scrutiny.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Return of the Anunnaki: Nine-feet tall giants 'found living near Egyptian pyramids'

express.co.uk

express_logo

Return of the Anunnaki: Nine-feet tall giants 'found living near Egyptian pyramids'

GIANT men of up to nine feet tall are living in and around the area of the ancient pyramids of Giza, well, according to a conspiracy theorist anyway.

By Jon Austin Jon Austin
PUBLISHED:11:05, Tue, Oct 11, 2016 | UPDATED: 11:07, Tue, Oct 11, 2016

GOOGLE EARTH

Big foot? Are these men actually nine feet tall?

The YouTube poster MrMBB333, who has had more than 16 million views and has 30,000 subscribers, claims to have been looking at the pyramids on Google Earth when he was "led" to a nearby urban area.

In a video entitled "Unreal! Two GIANT Men spotted nearby Giza Pyramids!" he claims to have found two oversized men walking towards each other across the street.

He even speculates that they could be descendants of the people who originally built the huge pyramids, or even the fabled Annunaki gods.

The Annunaki were a group of deities or gods in ancient Mesopotamian cultures.

In the video he said: "Ok guys, this one's kind of bizarre."

In a blurb for the video he said: "Whoa! Two men of gigantic stature, probably in the neighbourhood of 8 feet to 9 feet tall have surfaced in a community not far from the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt on Google Earth. These guys are HUGE."

He added in the video: "Are those the guys that built the Giza pyramids holy crap look at that.

> Whoa! Two men of gigantic stature, probably in the neighbourhood of 8 feet to 9 feet tall have surfaced in a community not far from the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt on Google Earth. These guys are HUGE.
>
> YouTube poster MrMBB333

"They are showing you a picture of two giant men. That man's waist is over the top of the car.

"That guy is at least eight feet tall, and, not just one, there's two.

"Talk about return of the Annunaki Gods.

"That man is huge, I don't care what anyone says he has got to be eight or nine feet tall.

"And not just one, but two. What are the odds of that, walking towards each other on different sides of the street."

Some of his viewers were convinced, but many said it was just an optical illusion.

One called Unkulmark said: "Maybe the Annunaki have been here all along and never left. The theory that giants built the pyramids is very logical and another logical theory is that the pyramids were made of cement.

GETTY

MrMBB333 takes giant leap that they are descendants of pyramid builders.

They might not be giants: Sceptics say it is an optical illusion.

"They say that living inside of pyramids is good for your health so maybe that is where these giants that you spotted were raised.

And TheGuitarManrth said: "Not the Annunaki, these are the Raphaim, the progeny of the nephilim, the fallen ones who mated with earth women to produce these abominations to God.

"As we get nearer and nearer to the end of days the veil that protects the earth from the dimension these things come from is breaking and failing and soon they will be manifesting physically all over the Earth."

GOOGLEEARTH

But his more level headed subscribers retried to put him in the picture, pointing out that the cars he compared them to were much further back in the distance.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Reward for sightings of 'possibly extinct' New Zealand bird - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 26 January 2017

Image copyrightThe South Island Kokako Trust

A cash reward is on offer in New Zealand for any sightings of a native bird that was until recently thought to be extinct.

The South Island kokako - sometimes called the "grey ghost" - was declared extinct in 2007, but then reclassified as "data deficient" in 2013 following a number of reported sightings. Despite the change, there's been no definitive proof that any of the birds are still alive - and that's what the South Island Kokako Charitable Trust wants to find.

"If South Island kokako still exist, there will be very few left," chairman Euan Kennedy tells Stuff.co.nz. "We need to locate them very soon so that conservation has a higher prospect of success."

The trust is offering 5,000 New Zealand dollars (US$3,600; £2,900) for "definitive evidence of survival" - preferably a photograph - and is asking everyone to keep their eyes and ears open in the country's southern forests. The reward will be paid out once a panel of ornithologists has reviewed any evidence and concluded that the bird does still exist.

The South Island kokako was once common but, as with so many of New Zealand's native birds, suffered greatly from the spread of introduced predators in the 19th Century.

Anyone who thinks they've spotted or heard one can log the encounter online. Smaller than a pigeon, it looks similar to the North Island kokako but has an orange wattle rather than a blue one. Its flute-like call could be confused with some other species, so the Trust would prefer visual evidence, although it adds one important point: "Please do not shoot a bird to satisfy our requirements!"

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Reward offered after 1,000-pound concrete chicken stolen in Taylorsville

wsoctv.com

Updated: Feb 13, 2017 - 3:53 PM

TAYLORSVILLE, N.C. - There is a reward being offered after someone stole a 1,000-pound concrete chicken in Alexander County this weekend.

The Alexander County Sheriff's Office said the chicken, which was over three feet tall, was snatched from a property on All Healing Springs Road in Taylorsville sometime Saturday night into Sunday morning.

The base of the chicken was located several miles away on the same road.

Anyone with information on the chicken's whereabouts is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 828-632-8555.

© 2017 Cox Media Group

© 2017 Cox Media Group.

Riding back to medieval times theworldweekly.com

THE WORLD

WEEKLY

19 January 2017

Riding back to medieval times

S everal bonfires heat a cold night in the small Spanish village of San Bartolomé de Pinares in central Spain, where people gather to enjoy the Medieval Festival of 'Las Luminarias' on January 16 every year. In honour of Saint Anton, the Catholic patron of animals, locals ride horses through high flames to symbolise purification and invoke protection for the coming year.

At nine o'clock, the bells of the church start to ring loudly as the priest blesses the horses and the flames, fed by tree branches, rise over the town hall. "Be careful! Wait!" the crowd murmurs when the animals approach the fire. "Bravo!" they applaud once the move is accomplished. Amid tension, alcohol, shadows and ash, the parade lasts around two hours, but the smell of smoke does not fade out until the following morning. "It looks like the Spanish Inquisition," says one woman. PACMA, the Spanish animal rights party, also denounces the "horrible suffering" experienced by the horses. Not everyone agrees old ancestral rites should be celebrated forever.

Pablo Blazquez Dominguez/Getty Images

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Rio's Olympic pool is a dirty mess

17:29

news.com.au

February 8, 20173:04pm

Barra Aquatic Centre has been abandoned. Picture: Carolina Oliveira Castro/Agência O Globo

NOT like this. Not like this.

Rio's 2016 Organising Committee went to extreme lengths in their planning to ensure the Olympic Aquatic Centre at Barra Olympic Park near Rio de Janeiro would not become a crumbling white elephant.

Their plans failed.

Trumpeted as a game-changing stadium that would become the model for future host cities building new infrastructure, the Rio Aquatic Centre was designed as a temporary facility which could be disassembled and built into to new community swimming centres in Madureira Park and the Campo Grande area.

It was never supposed to be left to rot like this.

The facility where Aussie Kyle Chalmers stunned the world to win the men's 100m freestyle final and Michael Phelps created history with gold medal No. 23 has become everything organisers set out to avoid.

Best intentions. Picture: (Top) Brazil.gov (Bottom) Guilherme Pinto / Agência O Globo

Best intentions. Picture: (Top) Brazil.gov (Bottom) Guilherme Pinto / Agência O Globo*Source:*Supplied

Stunning images have captured the stadium's complete dilapidation into an abandoned facility.

The 15,000 capacity venue was unveiled in April last year as the model of "nomadic architecture" techniques.

The centre was the $50million million jewel in the crown of Rio 2016's projected $14.2 billion expense budget.

The stadium, which hosted the swimming and water polo events during the Games, was also designed to be an aesthetic treat for the eyes of tourists and athletes.

Encased in 61 mural-styled 27m tall panels, the building displayed Brazilian artist Adriana Varejao's *Celacanto Provoca Maremoto* piece along with Portuguese-styled tiling.

Abandoned. Picture: Guilherme Pinto / Agência O Globo*Source:*Supplied

The site now sits in ruins. Picture: Guilherme Pinto / Agência O Globo*Source:*Supplied

Abandoned. Picture: Guilherme Pinto / Agência O Globo

The site now sits in ruins. Picture: Guilherme Pinto / Agência O Globo

Brazil's president at the time of the building's unveiling could not hide her pride in the completed project.

"We are delivering a high quality venue, on time and on budget," former president Dilma Rouseff said.

It has turned into a nightmare.

The plan to break down the Olympic Aquatic Centre into two community pools was always clouded by the long-term timeframe of the project within Brazil's fragile political environment and ongoing financial struggles.

Now it has become the very white elephant organisers so desperately set out to avoid. It is just the latest drama for the much maligned aquatic centre.

Barra aquatic Centre in 2016. Picture: Brazil.gov

Barra aquatic Centre in 2016. Picture: Brazil.gov*Source:*Supplied

Right from the beginning, the facility has been overshadowed by a series of mishaps.

Before the Games even began the Australian swimming team complained to event organisers over the "soupy" and "cloudy" look of the water inside the Olympic pool.

In the week before the Games began, the Barra Aquatic Centre had to be evacuated after a standard security sweep located an abandoned electrician's toolbox.

The building was evacuated just 90 minutes before the Australian team was scheduled to train.

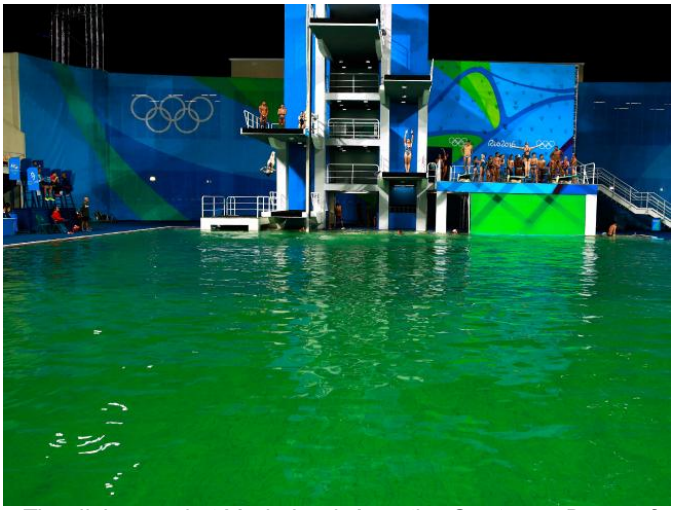
On the second day of competition at the Games, the Aquatic Centre was damaged when strong winds interrupted competition.

One of the panels on the outside of the building was ripped off by the wild winds.

It wasn't the only pool to come under fire during the Games.

The nearby Maria Lenk Aquatics Centre used for the diving events during Rio 2016 became known as the "Green Monster" when water inside the diving pool turned green.

Athletes also complained about the water in the pool smelling like "farts".



The diving pool at Maria Lenk Aquatics Centre on Day 4 of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The diving pool at Maria Lenk Aquatics Centre on Day 4 of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.*Source:*Getty Images

The Rio 2016 Games has become another victim of the extraordinary cost of hosting the Olympic Games.

The Sun last month reported on the state of disrepair the iconic Maracana Stadium has been left in.

The famous pitch is bare, with broken seats thrown in a heap and stray cats picking through discarded rubbish that has sat there for weeks, The Sun reports.

A ground which cost almost $820 million to redevelop is in such a poor state none of the professional sides in Rio de Janeiro can afford the costs of renovating it in order to play there.

Redevelopment work has stalled after three companies involved were found guilty of corruption for overcharging for their work.

More than 7000 of the 80,000 seats are missing, there are gaping holes in ceilings and many of the catering areas have been stripped bare.

And none of the private companies who milked the cash cow in delivering the reconstructions now say they have responsibility to foot the bill for the upkeep.

Rio's state government and Maracana SA — the firm responsible for running the stadium — blame the Rio 2016 organising committee. They in turn say they delivered the stadium back in the state they were contractually required to.

Maracana SA are refusing to accept responsibility until the Olympics organising committee carries out repairs — and in the meantime the ground upkeep is left in limbo.

How the Maracana Stadium looks now.*Source:*AFP

So while the fat cats sit with their pockets lined from the two major sporting events, the ground that was first built to host the 1950 World Cup sits idle, and in ruin.

The power has also been cut to the Stadium over unpaid bills.

How the Maracana Stadium looks now.

The stakeholders in the stadium have been caught up in a legal fight over a $US1 million electricity bill.

Electricity was shut off two weeks ago and electric utility Light said it would remain off until someone pays.

The consortium running the stadium owes the bill, although the consortium disputed that, Light said in a statement.

It said some of the bill was owed by Olympic Games organisers, who used the stadium for the opening and closing ceremonies, and football matches. The stadium has fallen into disrepair in recent weeks, with hundreds of seats ripped out by vandals and dumped into a ground-level enclosure.

Television sets were also stolen, and the field is brown from a lack of water. Artificial turf around the edge of the field has also been ripped up. No events are planned at the stadium.

— with AP

News Limited Copyright © 2017. All times AEDT (GMT +11).

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Rocket launcher sparks closure of recycling centre after being dumped in a skip

metro.co.uk

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.ukSaturday 28 Jan 2017 10:40 pm

A rocket launcher was found at the Knowle Hill recycling centre (Picture: SWNS)

A recycling centre was closed yesterday when horrified staff found a rocket launcher dumped inside a skip.

The discovery happened at the site in Exmouth, East Devon, shortly after midday.

An employee came across the 3ft long green tube as they sifted through rubbish at the Knowle Hill recycling centre.

Police rushed to the scene at around 1pm and the centre was closed as a safety precaution.

It remained shut for an hour while police disposed of the launcher.

Devon County Council said it had been stripped of its firing mechanism so ‘could not have been used’.

A Devon County Council spokesman said: ‘An item resembling a rocket launcher was found in a skip in the Knowle Hill HWRC. Staff reported the item to police.

‘The item was then removed from the site. As a safety precaution the centre was closed for a short time.’

Phew.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Rotting radishes stinking up Pennsylvania town

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 20, 2017

JERSEY SHORE, Pa. (AP) — A television station has found the reason one central Pennsylvania town stinks: a field of decaying radishes.

WNEP-TV (http://bit.ly/2jGF7LV) began investigating after residents of in the town of Jersey Shore complained the odor was turning the place into Funkytown.

Some people thought their propane tanks were leaking. Others say the smell was worse than dead deer or rotting pumpkins. The station even visited the sewer plant, which smelled OK.

The culprit, it turns out, is a field of radishes planted by T. A. Seeds, a company in nearby Nippenose Township.

The company plants the radishes to scavenge for natural nutrients left in the soil. The crops normally decay before the spring thaw, but they've rotted earlier this year because of unusually warm temperatures this month.

___

Information from: WNEP-TV, http://www.wnep.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Royal Marines dressed as Santa and Jesus storm beach

December 25th 2016

plymouthherald.co.uk

By Gayle_Herald | Posted: December 23, 2016

These pictures show the moment a group of Royal Marines dressed as Santa, Jesus and Crocodile Dundee stormed a beach on a landing craft - and then dashed to the local boozer.

The festive antics were captured on video by Chris Slater, who was walking his two dogs with his five grandchildren at the time in Cawsand, Cornwall.

He started filming the boat, which he said was not an unusual sight, but was then stunned to see the dressed-up marines.

Chris Slater

Santa arrives at Cawsand Beach

The 73-year-old said: "I was walking down the beach with my dogs and grandchildren who have just broken up from school.

"I walk the dogs every day down at Cawsand beach.

"I saw the landing craft coming in but that's not unusual there. It was coming towards the beach and I thought it would be a good shot so started filming it."

Chris Slater

Mr and Mrs Claus stormed the beach

The grandfather continued: "Then all of a sudden, the front came down and they came running out.

"It's not every day you see Jesus running alongside the Crocodile Dundee but there we go.

"I was staggered to see it."

Chris, was with his two Burnese Mountain dogs and grandchildren Bryony, 17, Amy, 14, Sam, 11, Gracie, seven, and William, three.

A dog dressed as an elf was among the troops

Chris Slate

He said around 20 dressed-up marines came running out before crouching down, posing and then running off again.

Some were dressed in Santa Claus costumes and others as famous movie characters.

Mr Slater later found out that they were on a sponsored charity run and ended up in the local pub.

LOCAL WORLD Copyright © 2016 Local World. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Runaway llama keeps deputies on their toes

mnn.com

Oddball situation ends on a happy note after rush-hour drama.

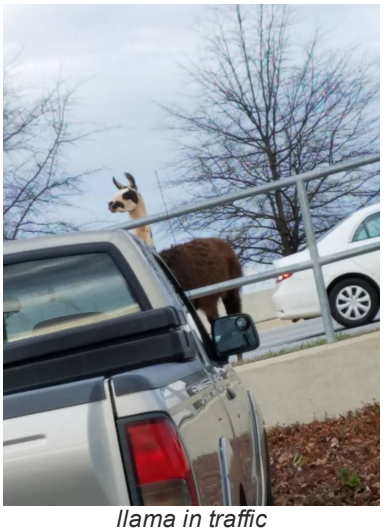
Mary Jo DiLonardo
January 5, 2017, 12:33 p.m.

Captain Hale and rescued llama

Capt. James Hale earned a new nickname, 'Llama Whisperer,' for his role in capturing the escapee with a carrot. (Photo: Oconee County Georgia Sheriff's Office)

"We can't make this stuff up." That's what the Oconee County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook when it announced that units were responding to reports of a runaway llama on GA 10, a busy loop around Athens, Georgia.

As social media happily kept up with the story, deputies followed the brown-and-white creature as it took its harrowing stroll through busy traffic at the beginning of rush hour. Eventually, they were able to corral the llama near a dumpster behind a fast-food restaurant with help from workers who offered up carrots as a lure.

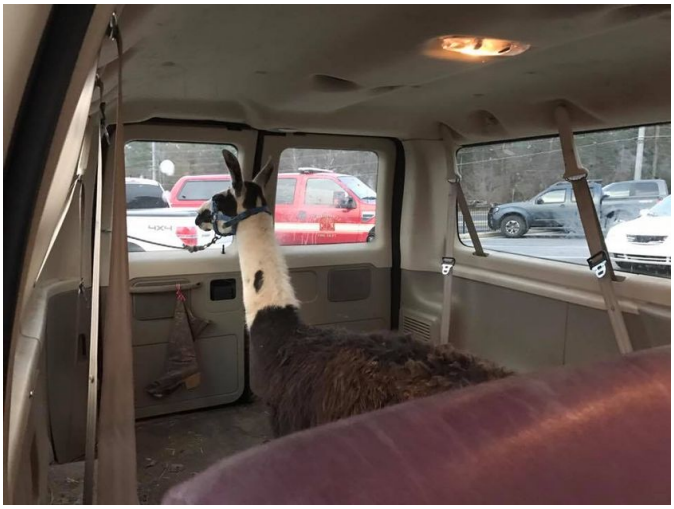


llama in traffic

The llama took a leisurely stroll through traffic, evading cars at the start of rush hour. (Photo: Oconee County Georgia Sheriff's Office)

Fans on social media, many who had followed the llama's exploits from across the country, were eager to give the llama a home. But deputies were able to track down the llama's owner, who came to pick the wayward critter up and haul him home in a van.

"We do not know at this time whether it just wanted to go for a stroll or if it was concerned about the weather forecast this weekend and was attempting to buy bread and milk," said an amused Chief Deputy Lee Weems in a statement. "I asked, but it refused to answer questions. Perhaps this is because I don't speak Spanish nor any of the native Peruvian languages."



rescued llama in the back of a van

The rescued llama heads home in the back of a van. (Photo: Oconee County Georgia Sheriff's Office)

Mary Jo DiLonardo Mary Jo writes about everything from health to parenting — and anything that helps explain why her dog does what he does.

Copyright © 2017 NARRATIVE CONTENT GROUP. All rights reserved.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Russia opens criminal case after bear's killing causes outcry

yahoo.com

Reuters

ReutersDecember 28, 2016

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian investigators said on Wednesday they had opened a criminal case into a group of men who filmed themselves crushing a bear to death by repeatedly driving over it in off-road vehicles in the Siberian tundra.

A video posted on YouTube on Monday, apparently shot on a mobile phone, showed men in two heavy trucks shouting "Crush him! Crush him!" and poking the bear as it struggled to rise from the snow.

The video, which has since been removed from YouTube, was widely circulated by Russian media and caused a public outcry.

Investigators in the Sakha Republic, in northeast Siberia, said they had opened a criminal investigation into the incident.

They said they were looking at whether the men were guilty of causing the death of an animal by treating it sadistically, a charge that carries a maximum jail term of two years.

The men caught on camera were shift workers driving vehicles that belonged to a exploration company prospecting for resources in the mineral-rich region, investigators said.

"There should be real jail time for this sort of crime!" Sergei Donskoi, Russia's minister for natural resources and the environment, wrote on social media.

"We'll make sure these villains get the most serious punishment."

(Reporting by Peter Hobson; Editing by Andrew Osborn)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Russian sculptor creates giant manure cockerel - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 4 January 2017

Image copyrightSakhaLife.ru

Mr Bopposov makes a new sculpture each year to mark the next symbol in the Chinese zodiac

An artist in Russia's Far East has marked the new year by fashioning a giant rooster sculpture out of frozen manure.

Mikhail Bopposov completed the huge cockerel in Uolba, a village in the Sakha Republic (also known as Yakutia), despite being hampered by a leg injury which required surgery only a week earlier. It was a team effort involving his brothers that ensured the piece was ready to be unveiled on New Year's Eve to welcome 2017, the Year of the Rooster, the Sakha Life website reports.

Strictly speaking, he needn't have hurried - in the Chinese zodiac, the Year of the Rooster doesn't start until 28 January.

At 3.5m tall (11ft 6in) and more than 4m long, the statue is sturdy enough to stand on, thanks to the region's freezing winter conditions.

Dung art is something of a speciality for Mr Bopposov, a former state farm worker. His previous work has included sculpting horses, a dragon and a snake out of manure. Last year, he turned his hand to a monkey scene that he said symbolised evolution.

Many Russian social media users have ridiculed the sculpture, using it to poke fun at the country. "In Russia, active people who are willing to work are given every opportunity. Manure has been delivered to talented sculptors in Yakutia," says one tweet.

Others sarcastically remark that it symbolises "Russian greatness" - on the NTV news website a reader says it should be put in the Kremlin. And one Twitter user refers to some recently discovered Soviet-era comics which imagined how advanced life would be in 2017, contrasting them with the dung art: "Expectation and reality".

But a few people do appreciate Mr Bopposov's work. A reader on the Yakutia.info site says: "I looked at the cockerel and started to smile. Then read the comments and sighed - where does so much anger come from?"

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

BOOK REVIEWS

The saddest man in the world: How George Saunders felt the weight of Lincoln on his shoulders

NEIL SMITH, SPECIAL TO NATIONAL POST | February 10, 2017 11:25 AM ET
More from Special to National Post

Republish
Reprint

Lincoln in the Bardo
By George Saunders
Random House
368 pp; $37

Mike Faille/National Post

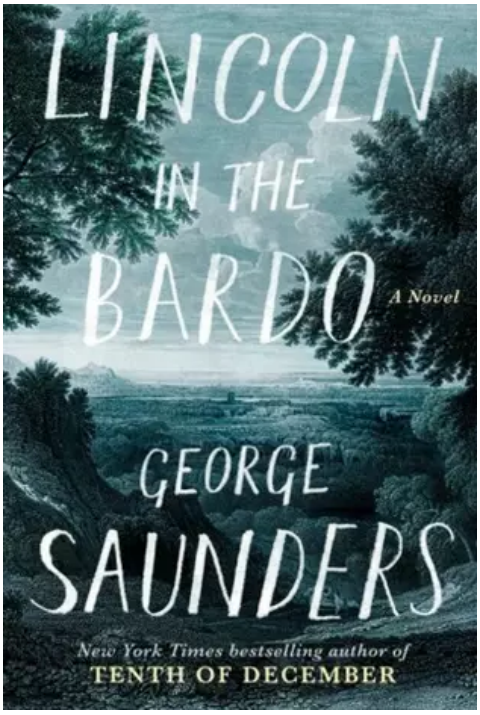
As the world debates U.S. President Donald Trump's fitness to govern, celebrated American author George Saunders is travelling back 155 years to the Civil War to drop in on another president in crisis, Abraham Lincoln.

Saunders is best known for his four much-admired books of short stories, including Tenth of December, winner of the 2014 Folio Prize, but this week he launches his debut novel, Lincoln in the Bardo. Though it features a historical figure in the 16th President of the United States, don't expect a conventional historical novel. After all, Saunders once wrote a short story starring a bag of Doritos.

The ingenious new book is set on the night Lincoln's beloved 11-year-old son Willie is laid to rest in a crypt near the White House. The boy has succumbed to typhoid fever, but instead of passing on to heaven, his spirit lingers. (The "bardo" in the title is a Tibetan term for the intermediate state between life and death.) He eagerly awaits visits from his father, who returns several times to the graveyard to cradle the boy's body in his arms.

Written almost entirely in dialogue, Lincoln in the Bardo reads much like a play. It features a large cast of ghosts who refuse to admit they're dead, and the lead ghost, a deceased printer named Hans Vollman, is perpetually naked with a boner. Think Beetlejuice but with a screenplay by Samuel Beckett.

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join



Random House

The novel deftly blends almost slapstick comedy with the heartbreaking tragedy of a father mourning the loss of his son. "The comic was a way of leavening the possibly dull historicity," Saunders says when reached by email, "the sense that can get into a book with historical roots that the book's purpose is just to be an account." Life, he insists, is a mix of comedy and tragedy, which "work together in the good cop/bad cop mode, one enabling, enriching and allowing the other."

Certain chapters of the novel consist solely of quotations from a wide range of nonfiction books on Lincoln and his legacy. These chapters, understandably more sedate than the outlandish graveyard scenes, often contrast differing opinions and memories of the events surrounding Willie's death and Lincoln's reaction to it.

Today, Abraham Lincoln is often deemed the greatest American president in history – and has been for much of the last century or more – but in researching the man, Saunders was surprised to discover that many people at the time loathed him.

"There's a wonderful book called The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln: The Story of America's Most Reviled President, which lists just about every negative thing anyone ever said publicly about Lincoln," he describes. "It's amazing and a reminder of the incredible revising that history is always doing."

Saunders points out that Lincoln's assassination itself helped turn the man into a hero. "It quickly recast everything he'd done in a saintly light and made critics reverse themselves dramatically."

The country over which Lincoln presided was violently divided, and the Civil War killed more Americans than the First and Second World Wars combined. In Saunders's novel, Lincoln concludes that "the swiftest halt to the thing (therefore the greatest mercy) might be the bloodiest" and that he "must end suffering by causing more suffering."

As Lincoln grieved for his own son, he had to reconcile his support for the war with the fact that it was killing the sons of tens of thousands of Americans. Lincoln's grief, Saunders says, brought the man to "a better understanding of our common sorrow and an associated arising compassion."

To get into the president's head, Saunders wrote and revised obsessively, and let the interplay of creativity and research lead him in. "When I was writing Lincoln," he says, "it was sort of a combinatorial thing – part me, part him. I was projecting my ideas onto his evolving reality, while trying to mimic 'him' (his voice, his way of thinking)."

In writing all his characters, Saunders says, "My main approach is to try to love them by finding some corollary of them in myself, and then to set about 'proving' my love by telling their stories with as much detail and truthfulness as I can."

Saunders drew on this compassionate technique to bring to life his amazing troupe of ghosts, which includes the spirits of black slaves, whose bodies are buried in an unmarked common pit and who face racism even in this limbo state.

George Saunders. Basso Cannarsa

One of them, Thomas Haden, is a former slave whose white master was far from an ogre, but far from just. "I tried to imagine that scenario – a slave with the best master possible – and demonstrate that, even under those conditions, slavery was an evil and degrading institution," Saunders says.

In a scene where Haden inhabits the president's body, the ghost comes to understand Lincoln and feel compassion for him. "All of us, white and black, had made him sadder, with our sadness," Haden remarks. A line from one of the historical works quoted in the book also describes Lincoln as "the saddest man in the world."

The man's sorrow is rooted in what the novel calls the "temporariness" of life and love. "Of course, it's nearly impossible to keep these two thoughts in mind at once: I love you, and you (and I) are temporary," Saunders says. "It's why people get driven insane by grief. The trick is to try to *begin* to accept the truth that we're all conditional and yet live in as happy and positive

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

a way as we can. Whether we like it or not (we don't), that's the truth of the world. So can we find a way to manage our minds and hearts so as not to wilt in the face of that truth?"

The novel also observes that, in the long run, a person's life work may prove inconsequential. One of the ghosts, the former owner of a pickle factory, says, "Strange, isn't it? To have dedicated one's life to a certain venture, neglecting other aspects of one's life, only to have that venture, in the end, amount to nothing at all, the products of one's labours utterly forgotten?"

Related

To make a short story long: George Saunders spent a dozen years on just one of Tenth of December's tales

Book Review: Tenth of December, by George Saunders

This scenario seems like the nightmare of certain writers, and Saunders admits that it's also his. "Oh, for sure it is. And not only that, I think it's a certainty that all our work will come to nothing. I had a close call on an airplane one time and, during it, had zero thought of 'my accomplishments.'"

Still, he says he's a better person when he struggles with an artistic problem. "It's maybe analogous to working out," he jokes. "There's no question that, in the end, the thing rotting in the ground will show very little evidence of all that bench-pressing."

Though our time in this world may well be brief, how fortunate that it coincides with the publication of Saunders's glorious, groundbreaking fiction.

Neil Smith is the author of Boo and the short story collection Bang Crunch.

Find National Post on Facebook

Topics: **Arts**, **Book Reviews**, **Books**, **Abraham Lincoln**, **George Saunders**

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Woman 'beat sugar daddy with painting of Canals of England'

metro.co.uk

Jen Mills for Metro.co.ukTuesday 3 Jan 2017 4:08 pm

The trial is being held at the Old Bailey (Picture: Rex)

A woman viciously beat a pensioner with a framed painting of 'Canals of England' after he gave her £35, a court heard.

Samantha Butler, 40, is on trial for attempted murder after she allegedly battered the older man, 79, with several wall paintings and burned him with a steam iron after they went back to his flat for sex.

It was sparked when he suggested they start a sugar daddy 'arrangement', jurors at the Old Bailey were told.

Butler allegedly attacked him from behind at his apartment in Crystal Palace, south London, stamping on his head and beating him with a laundry stand and four framed pictures, it is claimed.

One of the paintings showed English canals (Picture: Getty)

She also heated up the iron and burnt Mr Bland on his right hip and stomach near his groin during the hour-long ordeal, jurors were told.

Police were called to the flat in Orchard Grove on the evening of July 9 last year after a neighbour heard Mr Bland's cries for help.

Officers wearing body-mounted cameras found the victim lying half-naked between his bed and the settee.

The footage was played to jurors at the Old Bailey and Mr Bland was heard saying that Butler 'turned on me' after they 'came back here for the nookie'.

Mr Bland, who entered the witness box using a walking stick, told the court he spent five weeks in hospital and continues to suffer restricted movement of his arms and legs.

He said he met Butler at the Royal Albert pub in Upper Norwood while having a pint of bitter.

He said: 'I understood she was happy to come back to my flat, hopefully to go to bed was the idea.

'I understood she was short of money and I had £35 or £40 on me which I gave to her. I thought there might be an arrangement of some sort.

‘In the living room I was hit on the back of the head, it felt like something solid and I went to the floor between the end of the bed and the settee.

‘She proceeded to hit me with various things, the clothes stand, pictures off the wall.

‘She burnt me on the side with the iron and there were marks on the stomach.

‘I was shouting for help. I thought she was going to kill me because she said so.’

Butler, of St Aubyns Road, Upper Norwood, denies attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

The trial continues.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

San Francisco man returns 100-year overdue library book

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 13, 2017

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A book of short stories titled "Forty Minutes Late" has been returned to a San Francisco library — 100 years late.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports (http://bit.ly/2jOjGcm) that Bay Area resident Webb Johnson returned the book Friday. There was no fine.

Johnson's great grandmother had checked it out from the city's old Fillmore branch in 1917. She passed away a week before the due date, and the Fillmore branch is no longer around.

Johnson found the 1909 book, by F. Hopkinson Smith, in an old steamer trunk in 1996. He assumed the library wouldn't want it back, but a recently announced "fine forgiveness program" that runs through Feb. 14 inspired him to return it.

Head city librarian Luis Herrera said the library was glad to, finally, get the book.

___

Information from: San Francisco Chronicle, http://www.sfgate.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Two teenagers 'driven mad by Satanic WhatsApp message'

By Jessica Haworth 19:23, 13 JAN 2017 Updated 02:08, 14 JAN 2017 News mirror.co.uk

Two teenagers 'driven mad by Satanic WhatsApp message' after they were found 'babbling' and whining by family

They were found "incoherent" by their dad in the early hours of the morning as doctors described them as "hysterical"

A dad claims his two daughters were possessed by a WhatsApp message after reading a 'Satanic' chain mail message.

Two teenagers were taken to hospital after being found "babbling incoherently" in the early hours of this morning at their home in El Agustino, Peru.

Their father claimed they were possessed by a Satanic text message that came through WhatsApp, after he found them playing with a mobile phone.

A video clip showed the girls in their pajamas, lay down on the floor and making strange noises.

They were wailing in a high-pitched voice and mumbling as their family filmed them.

Other pictures show one of the girls being held down in the back of an ambulance as medics worked to calm her down.

Doctors said the girls were "hysterical" when they arrived at Hipolito Unanue Hospital hospital, reports Correo .

The chilling news comes after equally terrifying footage emerged showing a demon-possessed doll blinking its eyes and nodding its head.

Eerie home security footage shows a haunted doll twisting its head from side to side before objects fly across the room.

The girl’s father set up the camera after he says she complained of something bothering her.

In the first clip the youngster is seen happily playing with her toys on the floor as a doll in the corner of the room suddenly moves its head to the side.

She remains completely oblivious to what's going on as it then moves its head to the other side before the entire room shakes.

Other recent footage also showed the moment two teen sisters are grunt and go into spasms as a prophet exorcises demons from the girls.

Local media reported that the girls had been afflicted by a variety of symptoms over the past three months including loss of speech, which were attributed to the presence of demons inside them.

One girl is shown screaming as villagers hold her down. The other is seen with a cloth wrapped across her eyes, writhing oddly across the floor.

Part of the process of removing the demons apparently involved squirting something into one of the girls' mouths, as seen in the video

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Scarborough is shaken by biggest quake to his Britain for a decade

17:43 EST, 3 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

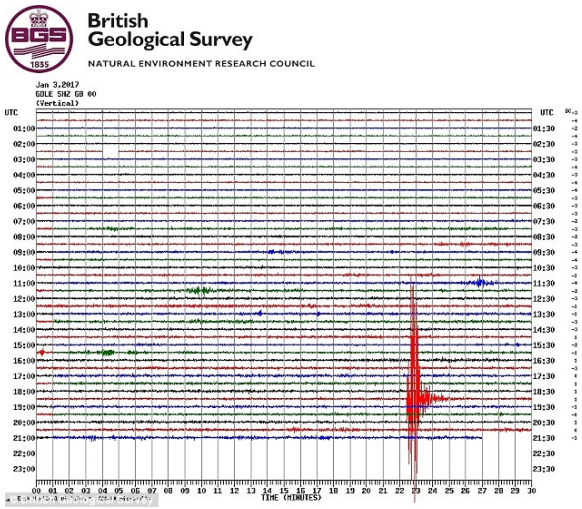
- **A tremor measuring 3.9 was reported 100 miles off Scarborough at 6.50pm**
- **It is the biggest quake to hit Britain since a 5.2 tremor in Market Rasen in 2008**

By Ross Parker For The Daily Mail

The largest earthquake to hit Britain for almost a decade was felt in North Yorkshire on Tuesday evening.

The tremor measuring 3.9 on the Richter Scale happened in the North Sea 100 miles east of Scarborough at 6.52pm, the British Geological Survey said.

Although the British Isles are not at risk of a devastating earthquake bringing widescale destruction or mass casualties, it is thought 20 to 30 minor movements happen each year.



The earthquake, at 6.52pm, was spotted by the monitoring station at Scarborough and showed up on the seismograph (pictured)

Yesterday's quake was the largest since a 5.2 magnitude tremor hit Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, in February 2008. It was felt as far away as Aberdeen and Ireland.

The largest earthquake ever recorded in the UK measured 6.1 and happened on Dogger Bank, in the North Sea, in 1931.

The most destructive was around Colchester, Essex, in 1884, measuring 4.6 on the Richter Scale. Some 1,200 buildings needed repairs, chimneys collapsed and walls were cracked, the British Geological Survey said.

It was 60 miles offshore but was still powerful enough to cause minor damage to buildings on the east coast of England.

Scarborough seafront, which is dominated by the castle on the hilltop above. Despite the earthquake off the coast of Scarborough there were no reports of a tsunami STOCK PHOTO

The British Geological Survey said on its website that earthquakes on the east coast of the UK are relatively rare.

'Earthquakes are almost completely absent from eastern Scotland and north east England. Similarly, Ireland is almost completely free of earthquakes. The North Sea is more active than the mainland,' it stated.

Although far from the boundary of any tectonic plate - the giant sections of the earth's crust on which land masses sit - the quake will still have been caused by their movement.

'The driving forces for earthquake activity in the UK are unclear; however they include regional compression caused by motion of the Earth's tectonic plates, and uplift resulting from the melting of the ice sheets that covered many parts of Britain thousands of years ago,' the organisation said.

Dave Holborn, an IT consultant who lives in Scarborough, tweeted: 'Earthquake strikes off Scarborough coast - I didn't feel a thing, although I was in a spinning class at the time.'

Comments (

sabfrance, Melbourne, Australia, about an hour ago

In New Zealand they call that a gust of wind.

Naomi Webb, Hamilton, New Zealand, 17 minutes ago

So true we get thousands a year and anything under 5 is small

Time for revolution, Stockton, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

It was Diane Abbott trying out a trampoline at the new leisure centre

Guderian2, Harrogate, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

Can we expect millions of pounds in aid from Asia and Japan ..... no thought not.

Guderian2, Harrogate, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

I'll just pop outside and check the pigeons and ferrets are ok. I may be some time.

Scud, Wales, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

I had quite a large movement earlier on,,, brought on by a siesmic shepherds pie

Ian Gray, Pattaya, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

If there is any destruction, will the UK receive millions in aid from other countries?

Fueltoflames, Frontline, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

People used to live on the Digger Bank. Something must have happened out there, I know the sea levels rose after the ice receded, but I reckon there was a proper earthquake too.

Jon Sims, Ningbo, China, 36 minutes ago

Dogger bank.. Too much dogging going on so they flooded it

Jon Sims, Ningbo, China, about 3 hours ago

It is a very very tiny quake.

Fueltoflames, Frontline, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

Well, we don't want a big one, thanks very much!

Evie, Vancouver, Canada, about 3 hours ago

Has there been any fracking going on there? For sure, fracking causes earth quakes.

mdbs, Aylesbury. England, about 3 hours ago

You idiots can't spell.

Jon Sims, Ningbo, China, 34 minutes ago

The sentence should be "You idiots can't spell correctly," you idiot!

Farm Heroes Saga, the #4 Game on iTunes. Play it now!
© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

School apologises after students dress as Nazis for mock parade

metro.co.uk

Toby Meyjes for Metro.co.ukMonday 26 Dec 2016 10:38 am

The students have been criticised for wearing Nazi uniforms at the school in western Taiwan (Picture: EPA/KUANG FU HIGH SCHOOL)

A school has apologised after its students dressed as Nazis during anniversary celebrations in a stunt that led to them being criticised by Israel.

The pupils from Hsinchu Kuang-Fu High School in Taiwan caused outrage after dressing in military uniforms with swastika banners while performing the Nazi salute during a mock parade at the school.

After pictures of the event were posted online the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei issued a statement calling it ‘tasteless’ and ‘shocking’.

In a statement to the Taipei Times: ‘It is deplorable and shocking that seven decades only after the world had witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust, a high school in Taiwan is supporting such an outrageous action as we witnessed yesterday at Hsinchu Kuang Fu Senior High School.’

The German Institute Taipei also issued a statement, saying the students did not understand the what the Nazi symbol stands for with regards to human rights and oppression.

The event led to criticism from Israeli representatives (Picture: EPA/KUANG FU HIGH SCHOOL)

The country’s education minister Pan Wen-chung issued an apology on Saturday for the incident, urging all schools in Taiwan to learn a lesson from the incident, according to The Straits Times

The presidential office also issued a statement condemning the act

The school apologised on Saturday stressing that it did not support the violence committed by the Nazis.

Form teacher Liu Hsi-cheng told Central News Agency the class voted to cosplay Adolf Hitler despite his warning that he was a controversial figure.

He admitted he should have ‘immediately rejected’ the decision.

MetroUK @MetroUK

© 2016 Associated Newspapers Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Scratch and dent sale coming soon': Car slams into Huntsville comic store

By Ashley Remkus | aremkus@al.com | Follow on Twitter on January 06, 2017 at 12:34 PM, updated January 06, 2017 at 1:04 PM

al.com

A scratch and dent sale is coming soon to a Huntsville comics and gaming store after a car went off the road and drove into the building today, its owner said.

Ed Walls, owner of The Deep, Comics & Games, said the gaming products in his store were destroyed, but the comics section is still standing.

"The important this is nothing was damaged that can't be replaced," Walls said. "Nobody was seriously hurt."

Huntsville police are investigating the crash that occurred at 2310 Memorial Parkway S.W., Lt. Stacy Bates said.

Bates said police aren't sure what caused the crash.

Walls said the store remains open despite the incident.

"The car got enough merchandise under it to stop it about halfway through the store," he said. "We've got a crew here helping us clean up everything, and a lot of people have been coming by to look at it.

"If people are going to come, we might as well stay open for them to buy something," Walls added. "We'll have a scratch and dent sale coming soon."

•

© 2016 Alabama Media Group. All rights reserved (About Us).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Alabama Media Group.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Searching for California's lost Viking treasure ship

newsweek.com

By Alexander Nazaryan On 2/2/17 at 9:00 AM

02_10_Vikings_03

02/10/17
In the Magazine
Many parts of the California desert are now patchworks of green, unnaturally fertile land that is a reminder that long ago, there was much more water here, including the vast but now barren Lake Cahuilia.Mike Blake/Reuters
Culture California

In the rugged Colorado Desert of California, there lies buried a treasure ship sailed there hundreds of years ago by either Viking or Spanish explorers. Some say this is legend; others insist it is fact. A few have even claimed to have seen the ship, its wooden remains poking through the sand like the skeleton of a prehistoric beast.

Among those who say they've come close to the ship is small-town librarian Myrtle Botts. In 1933, she was hiking with her husband in the Anza-Borrego Desert, not far from the border with Mexico. It was early March, so the desert would have been in bloom, its washed-out yellows and grays beaten back by the riotous invasion of wildflowers. Those wildflowers were what brought the Bottses to the desert, and they ended up near a tiny settlement called Agua Caliente. Surrounding place names reflected the strangeness and severity of the land: Moonlight Canyon, Hellhole Canyon, Indian Gorge.

To enter the desert is to succumb to the unknowable. One morning, a prospector appeared in the couple's camp with news far more astonishing than a new species of desert flora: He'd found a ship lodged in the rocky face of Canebrake Canyon. The vessel was made of wood, and there was a serpentine figure carved into its prow. There were also impressions on its flanks where shields had been attached—all the hallmarks of a Viking craft. Recounting the episode later, Botts said she and her husband saw the ship but couldn't reach it, so they vowed to return the following day, better prepared for a rugged hike. That wasn't to be, because, several hours later, there was a 6.4 magnitude earthquake in the waters off Huntington Beach, in Southern California. Botts claimed it dislodged rocks that buried her Viking ship, which she never saw again.

There are reasons to doubt her story, yet it is only one of many about sightings of the desert ship. By the time Myrtle and her husband had set out to explore, amid the blooming poppies and evening primrose, the story of the lost desert ship was already about 60 years old. By the time I heard it, while working on a story about desert conservation, it had been nearly a century and a half since explorer Albert S. Evans had published the first account. Traveling to San Bernardino, Evans came into a valley that was "the grim and silent ghost of a dead sea," presumably Lake Cahuilla. "The moon threw a track of shimmering light," he wrote, directly upon "the wreck of a gallant ship, which may have gone down there centuries ago."

The route Evans took came nowhere near Canebrake Canyon, and the ship Evans claimed to see was Spanish, not Norse. Others have also seen this vessel, but much farther south, in Baja California, Mexico. Like all great legends, the desert ship is immune to its contradictions: It is fake news for the romantic soul, offering passage into some ancient American dreamtime when blood and gold were the main currencies of civic life.

The legend does seem, prima facie, bonkers: a craft loaded with untold riches, sailed by early-European explorers into a vast lake that once stretched over much of inland Southern California, then run aground, abandoned by its crew and covered over by centuries of sand and rock and creosote bush as that lake dried out…and now it lies a few feet below the surface, in sight of the chicken-wire fence at the back of the Desert Dunes motel, $58 a night and HBO in most rooms.

Totally insane, right? Let us slink back to our cubicles and never speak of the desert ship again. Let us only believe that which is shared with us on Facebook. Let us banish forever all traces of wonder from our lives.

Yet there are believers who insist that, using recent advances in archaeology, the ship can be found. They point, for example, to a wooden sloop from the 1770s unearthed during excavations at the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan, or the more than 40 ships, dating back perhaps 800 years, discovered in the Black Sea earlier this year.

If there, they say, why not here?

A Ship Full of Black Pearls

John Grasson's long, dogged pursuit of the Viking ship (or was it Spanish?) is fueled by his boundless curiosity and his craving for validation—although pocketing a hidden treasure wouldn't be such a bad thing.Catherine Ledner for Newsweek

John Grasson picked me up at the Palm Springs International Airport in mid-November. He doesn't fly, and his allegiance to land-borne transportation deprives him of the view I saw as my jet descended, the khaki-colored expanse of the desert giving way, suddenly, to rectangles of green and circles of blue, the lawns and pools of a desert oasis at once alluring and freakish. Those willing to see the place for what it is are few in number, since what's readily visible doesn't seem like much. We call these people desert rats, and we leave them to their strange devices until we need them to move so we can build a golf course. We deprive them, but we also deprive ourselves, crowding an already-crowded world that needs fewer "shoppes" and more places of solitude. The desert is watered, and the imagination turns arid.

Grasson, who has a cheerful manner, walked me past winter bird tourists to the parking lot, where his 15-year-old Jeep Wrangler awaited. The much-abused vehicle's rear was covered by bumper stickers that made clear his enthusiasms, including one that declared him a believer in the landing of extraterrestrials at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947; another suggested an affinity for Amboy, the

famous California ghost town on Route 66. His license plate is DEZERTMAG, because he was once editor of *Dezert Magazine*, which was the short-lived successor to *The Desert Magazine*, which was published from 1937 until 1985. He wears a black *Dezert Magazine* cap, which obscures what's left of the graying hair at his temples.

The Desert Magazine covered the mystery of the desert ship for the first time in 1939, when writer Charles C. Niehuis described a strange encounter he'd had with Jim Tucker in Prescott, Arizona. Tucker's wife was a Mexican woman named Petra, whose previous husband was a man named Santiago, "a high class Mexican from Los Angeles." One day, Santiago saw Petra making tortillas on a type of round griddle called a *comal*. He declared he knew where he could get her a better one.

"I tell you something strange," Santiago said to his wife. "You will say I am crazy, that I lose my water and get thirsty and see dreams, but it is the truth." He then told Petra he'd been exploring the mountains north of the border when, in a "narrow box canyon," he saw "a boat of ancient appearance—an open boat but big, with round metal disks on its sides." Santiago said he was pulled away by his companions before he could explore the ship, and he never went back.

Those "round metal disks"—the superior comals Santiago promised his wife—suggest a Viking ship that would have sailed through the Northwest Passage, down the coast of Canada, around Baja California and up the Colorado River, which before a modern-day diversion flowed into the Gulf of California. Sailing up the Colorado River back then would have brought this ship into Lake Cahuilla, an enormous body of water that once occupied much of what is today California's Coachella Valley. The explorers may have thought the lake was a strait, since California was believed to be an island into the 18th century. The ship could easily have then run aground, because Cahuilla was created by the natural damming of the Colorado River (lots of silt) and thus given to periodic drying up. The Vikings presumably abandoned ship, giving themselves over to the harsh elements, but their ship remained—and perhaps remains still.

This is what Grasson believes. When we'd spoken on the phone, I'd gotten the impression he thought the ship was of Spanish origin, which made more sense, as there were Spanish conquistadors in Mexico in the early 1500s, whereas there is no solid evidence of Viking settlement on the West Coast. Grasson had mentioned meeting someone who claimed to have Spanish armor from the ship (he asked me not to reveal the names of these people, because they fear being harassed by treasure hunters). But the meeting never took place, and Grasson came to doubt the armor was from the ship. In addition, he'd recently been studying a 1632 book, *Hydrographic and Geographic Descriptions of Many Northern and Southern Lands and Seas in the Indies, Specifically of the Discovery of the Kingdom of California,* by a Spanish explorer of California named Nicolás de Cardona. Some believe that one of Cardona's captains lost a ship full of black pearls in Cahuilla, but Grasson concluded this couldn't be because Cardona's book suggested his fleet consisted of frigates, which would have been unable to sail up the Colorado.

"I know too much," Grasson lamented in a radio interview, "but not enough."

Einstein once said imagination is more important than knowledge. His quote, stripped of context, is frequently found on college-dorm posters, because it seems to say that the pleasurable work of dreaming is more important than than the grinding work of accumulating and mastering fact. That's not what Einstein meant, however. His point was that knowledge can only take you so far. The last leap has to be into something beyond fact.

The leap Grasson wants to make is especially parlous. Scholarly history is arrayed against him. He is an expert in legend, which skews far more toward imagination than fact—too far, for most. He is trying to reconcile the imagined and the real, but he must do it in his free hours, on a bad knee, with no apparent means of outside financial support. When knowledge is sparse, he has to let his imagination do the work.

This may be foolish, for there are surely more productive ways Grasson could spend his time. He could take up yoga, learn to garden, start a tour-guiding business. But these are not the things Grasson has chosen to do. “We tell ourselves stories,” Joan Didion wrote in *The White Album*, “in order live.” It may be a story about some masterpiece you’ve been nurturing for years, of selling a tech startup to Google, of raising a family in rural Vermont. It may be about a ship stranded in the desert.

We drove on an unmarked road to a striated formation of rock, a neat horizontal line dividing the cliff face into light and dark sections, as if it were an expertly layered ice-cream cake. This indicates the waterline of Lake Cahuilla. Cahuilla dried out centuries ago, but water returned here in 1905, after a dam broke on the Colorado River. Today, the Salton Sea is the largest body of water in California. It is fed entirely by agricultural run-off that will soon cease to flow, for an insanely complex set of reasons having to do with California’s insanely complex water-rights statutes. The State of California has vowed to invest $80.5 million to make sure the Salton Sea doesn’t dry out, mostly because of toxic sediment that could blow all the way to Los Angeles. But if the lake is allowed to disappear, maybe Grasson will discover the desert ship on what is today the lake’s floor, and what was 147 years ago the moonlit valley above which Albert Evans stood.

Grasson isn’t an archeologist, and is definitely not a paleo-hydrologist, though he understands how and where water has moved across the desert. Nearby was the reservation of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. Sometime in the mid 19th century, a Cahuilla chief named Cabazon told a white visitor the story — already several hundred years old — of a great white bird sailing there from afar. This could be a reference to a Spanish ship.

Grasson pointed to the striated rock that rose all around us. “Could a ship pass through here? Hell, yes.”

We stood for a moment, watching the white bird pass.

The Norse Whalers in Mexico

A map showing California as an island, an common misconception even into the early 18th Century. The legend includes a history of California from Cortez to 1695. Corbis/Getty

Born in Cleveland in 1957, Grasson enlisted in the U.S. Army after high school and worked as a cook. After his discharge, he went to Los Angeles in 1985, hoping to become a comedian. He played some of the city’s famous clubs, but did not become famous himself. He once met Jay Leno, but asked me not to repeat the story of that encounter because he thought it was salacious. I will honor his request, but will note that it’s kind of refreshing—and indicative of Grasson’s character—that what he fears might be salacious wouldn’t even make a fifth grader’s cheeks turn red. I fear, also, that Grasson was too nice and too Midwestern for the likes of the Comedy Store. Audiences appeared to agree. To make a living, Grasson sold carpet.

In 1996, Grasson moved out to Orange County, because it was cheaper to live there. Then, that became too expensive. Like many others who lived in or near Los Angeles, Grasson found real-estate prices pushing him East, into Riverside County and beyond, ever deeper into the desert, until he ended up in Banning, where he has lived for the last 11 years. He sells mattresses.

About 10 years ago, one of his co-workers told Grasson he was too intense and needed a hobby. Grasson went out into the desert, to the Vallecito Stage Station, one of the stagecoach stops on the Butterfield Overland Mail Trail. Here, in the creosote wilderness, he found a tranquility he had never known before: “You start getting giddy when you realize how relaxed you are,” he told me.

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the deserts of California each year—Death Valley National Park alone attracts more than a million tourists. Most of these do not return to search for ancient treasure ships. Two factors drove Grasson into the realm of obsession. He became an avid visitor to TreasureNet.com, an international clearinghouse for those seeking Jon Swift’s silver mine deep in the Appalachian Mountains or a vault made by the Knights Templar on an island off Nova Scotia. He also read Philip A. Bailey’s *Golden Mirages,* a compendium of desert lore. The book so entranced him that he eventually drove to the Arizona State University library in Tempe, asking to photocopy all of Bailey’s notes for the book. That took three days and cost $500. To go through all of Bailey’s research took Grasson seven years.

“I was hooked full-bore,” Grasson recalled. He prefers to be called an “explorer of legends and lore,” not a treasure hunter. That tribe, he says, is concerned only with self-enrichment, willing to abuse property rights and historical artifacts in the pursuit of some long-lost trove. It is enough for Grasson to live inside the legend, the way a believer lives inside a religion, never questioning its outer bounds. “The beauty with legend,” he says, “is that you're never wrong.”

He is also driven by a slight sense of grievance, a conviction that academics are errant in their near-unanimous assertion that there is no desert ship. He knows they look down on him, but he also thinks he knows more than they do. “All archeologists are wreck hunters,” he told me. “[Their] science basically started with a treasure hunter looking for gold.” This a reference to Heinrich Schliemann, who founded modern archeology with his search for the city of Troy in southern Turkey. Grasson isn’t denigrating professional archeology; only reminding its more pedigreed practitioners that their profession rewards a well-developed imagination—something it shares with astrophysics and pure mathematics but few other disciplines.

He also argues that fieldwork is everything—you can’t find a desert ship in an academic journal. “If you gotta guy who spends 10, 15 years looking at one particular story,” Grasson said one day over breakfast, “and you got an academic who spent maybe a summer or two—you gotta realize who really knows more.”

At the same time, he spends more time pouring over documents than trekking through the desert. It’s only as his work has become better known—he was on *Myth Hunters*, on the American Heroes Channel, the History Channel filmed an episode for a show about unexplained phenomena (he isn’t

sure when it will air), and he recently shot a pilot for *American Legends,* an Icon Films production for the Travel Channel—that he has gone out there more and more, as a field guide to and custodian of the desert ship myth.

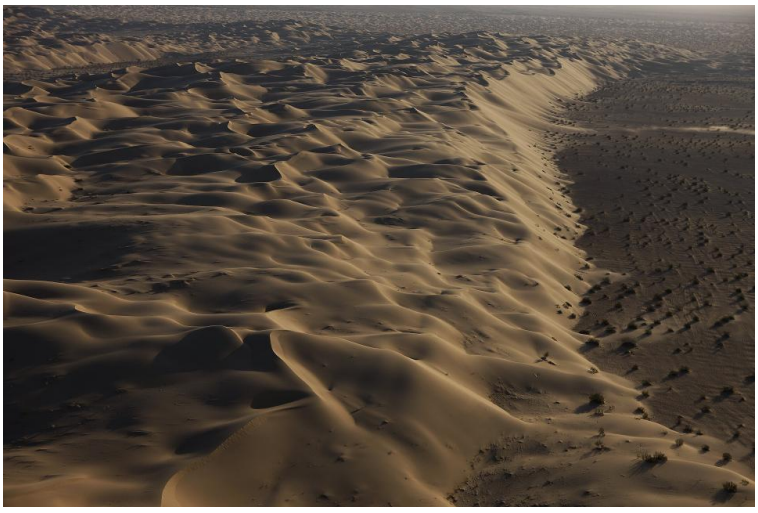
In the parking lot of a small Indian casino where we stopped for lunch, Grasson pulled from the back of his Jeep a copy of *The Last of the Seris*, a 1939 book by Dane Coolidge about the indigenous people of Tiburon Island, in the Gulf of California. Grasson pointed to a passage about “Came From Afar Men—the strange whalers who cooked whale meat in an enormous iron pot, ate it and drank the oil.” This is, Coolidge wrote, “a record of the old Norsemen who visited the west coast of Mexico long before the Spanish came.”

Grasson also had *Golden Mirages*, the book that first inspired him a decade ago. “The usual theory advanced is that it is a mirage,” Bailey said of the desert ship. “Those who hold to this theory as the only solution of the mystery insist that almost all the exciting tales that come out of the desert are due to mirages.”

Bailey might not have many more facts than Grasson, but he has does have the force of conviction, annealed by the passage of time. We cannot subsist on faith alone, but can we subsist without *any* faith? Are we ready to become mere aggregations of lifehacks, corporate efficiency our only goal? Grasson has never met anyone who’d seen the ship, and all the evidence he has of its existence is third-hand, at best. But even so, there has always been just enough to keep going. Like Bailey many years before, he refuses to consign the desert ship entirely to the realm of fiction.

“I know this is kind of weird, and a lot of people look at me like I'm nuts,” he said on the Death Valley Jim Radio Program, the podcast where I first heard him talk. “But I really think this ship is there.” *There* has changed many times, dotting the landscape of the Colorado Desert with visions of a ship that never quite docked at the port of reality. Promising leads have vanished like a cactus mouse in the undergrowth. Grasson’s conviction, though, remains as solid as the black and brown hills.

Skeptoid



Aerial views of the desert area between the Colorado River and Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea.Brent Stirton/Getty

The desert ship may is buoyed by legend, but scuttled by facts. For one, there’s no primary-source record of a ship getting stuck in the Colorado Desert. And if there was a ship on the desert floor, where did it go? Myrtle Botts, the librarian who said she saw it, claimed it was buried by an earthquake. Even Grasson concedes that a part of it should have remained above ground. The desert is a changeable place, but not so changeable that an entire ship can disappear from view overnight.

Brian Dunning, who hosts the popular Skeptoid podcast, investigated claims about the lost desert ship in 2010. Given the podcast’s name, and the pleasure its host takes in debunking popular legends (Hitler escaped the fall of Berlin, the moon landing was faked), it is not surprising Dunning

took apart the desert ship plank by plank. He concluded that no Norsemen sailed up the Gulf of California: “There is no archeological evidence of Vikings anywhere along the American West Coast.”

A 16th-century Spanish ship seemed the most plausible to Dunning, but he discounted this as well, largely on the grounds of paleo-hydrology: Given the course and depth of the Colorado River, it could not have deposited a ship in some of its more popular mythological locations in the Colorado Desert. Such a ship then, would have to be much closer to the river’s delta, in the armpit between Baja California and the Mexican mainland. Grasson hasn’t been there, but won’t discount the possibility. The possibility that there is no ship at all, he simply won’t entertain.

“This guy from Skeptoid is grossly misinformed,” Grasson says. “He’s got some facts, but the dates are all wrong, the places are wrong.”

Others have reached more or less the same conclusion as Dunning. In 2003, the *Los Angeles Times* concluded there were plenty of craft lost to the saline depths of the Salton Sea, but these belonged to the U.S. Navy, which had a test site nearby.

Confronted with facts that pummel his theories—or the lack of facts to back up his beliefs—Grasson retreats into an uncertainty he thinks benefits his cause. Until someone proves the ship doesn’t exist, it could exist.

Death Valley Jim, who has written a dozen books about desert lore, agrees. “I don’t question the existence of the Lost Ship of the Desert,” he wrote to me in an email. “This is the desert, after all.”

Sifting for Jewels

The road to Vallecito Stage Station and then Borrego Springs is long and lonely.Catherine Ledner for Newsweek

Selling mattresses can’t be an easy job, nor an especially profitable one. I didn’t want to ask how much money Grasson made, but every indication was not much. And whatever he made was hard-won. He was on disability because of his knee when I met him, but that was about to end, and then he’d go back to selling mattresses, helping other people sleep better.

In other words, Grasson has plenty in common with the WWCs—i.e., members of the white working class—who handed the presidency to Donald Trump: he’s a middle-aged, white-as-the-driven-snow guy from the Midwest who served in the armed forces but can’t even get decent medical care. Yet never once did I hear him air any grievances. He had given himself to a greater faith and, like all devoted believers who do so, he could not be bothered by the petty inconveniences of everyday life. His faith may be strange, but it meets several hallmarks of a religion, right down to the prolonged sojourn in the desert, as well as a convoluted and improbable origin story whose artifacts are at once valuable and irrecoverable. You believe in a burial shroud supposedly worn by the Son of God,

who ascended to heaven after crucifixion; he believes in a Viking shield turned into a baking implement. Which is the more fantastic tale?

Like all faiths, Grasson's constantly renews itself, flourishing at the very moment when it should expire. Some time ago, he listened to a recording made by a farmhand named Elmer Carver. In it, he claims, Carver describes an incident in 1907, when he was invited to work on the farm of Niles Jacobsen in Imperial, a town about 15 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

While inspecting the property, Carver noticed that the fence posts were oddly shaped. Jacobsen said this was because they came from a boat he'd found on his property. Jacobsen promptly left for Los Angeles, and his wife invited Carver to stay in the main house, because she was afraid of a "crazy Swede" who was prowling the area. Carver asked her about the ship. "We had a bad windstorm awhile back, and it blew a lot of sand off of one of the dunes near the back of the house," she said, according to Grasson. "When the storm was done, Jakie noticed what looked like the front of a boat coming out of the ground, so he went to investigate. It took Jakie quite some time to get through all the sand, but when he did he found a small chest full of gems. But when he tried to lift the chest out it fell completely apart." Jacobsen used a sifter to retrieve the spilled jewels.

On that recording, Carver says he saw the ship protruding from the ground. He also says that, during his trip to Los Angeles, Jacobsen met with a lawyer named Levi and a pawnbroker named Barney, presumably to trade some of the treasure he'd found.

The Jacobsons eventually divorced and left Imperial. Carver gave his audio testimony in 1964; it subsequently passed into the hands of "private collector" whom Grasson won't name. The recording is authentic, he says, and Carver was likely "the only man alive to have ever seen and touched the Lost Ship of the Desert."

Work in the Shadows

Grasson does not think the desert ship is in Canebrake Canyon, where Myrtle Botts claimed to have seen it in 1933. That's unfortunate, because Canebrake is gorgeous land in the midst of the Anza Borrego, nearly as jagged and wild today as when the pioneers first came through. More likely, Grasson has concluded, the ship is closer to the Mexican border, where the land is dusty and flat, where the dry riverbeds have names like Coyote Wash and the irrigation canals have names like Wistaria Lateral Eight. Here, your sense of wonder dissipates and is replaced by dread.

To get to Imperial, you skirt the western edge of the Salton Sea and head through the unnaturally fertile Imperial Valley. This was all once desert, but irrigation has turned it into a breadbasket producing vegetables like potatoes and spinach and onions, as well as alfalfa, Bermuda grass and hay. There are date groves everywhere, disconcerting green rectangles carved out the desert, tattoos of our weird civilization.

Most of the hunting that goes on here has nothing to do with Spanish galleons or Viking longboats. The nearby U.S. border is a popular crossing for undocumented immigrants. If they are lucky, their "treasure" might be steady work in the shadows. If not, they may end up in a mass grave in Holtville, where many undocumented immigrants who've died during the border crossing are buried. According to the Imperial County Farm Bureau, the area is also "home to one of the largest catfish farms west of the Mississippi."

I will say this in defense of John Grasson: If catfish farms are possible in the desert, so are ancient treasure ships.

Clues Everywhere

The Los Angeles Times concluded there are plenty of craft at the bottom of the Salton Sea, but it reported that they were all attached to the nearby U.S. Navy test base. Catherine Ledner for Newsweek

Imperial is a sad, low town eternally under a hot, low sun. The land is featureless except for the brown jags of mountains that squat on the horizon. According to Grasson's most recent research, the desert ship is here.

We pulled off the highway, drove through town and toward a farmhouse shaded by a line of trees. We drove along an irrigation ditch, between fields of rye grass (Grasson has asked me not to reveal the exact location of this farm, for fear that its occupants might be disturbed by "a bunch of idiots going out and wrecking private property"). Grasson stopped his Jeep and we stepped out into a thick cloud of fine dust particles.

This was once the property of Nels Jacobsen, the farmer who supposedly made fence with slats from a Viking ship. A team that was shooting for the History Channel program came out to scan the property with ground-penetrating radar a few months ago. Use of such radar has led to notable archeological discoveries, like a tunnel out of the Ponar death camp in Lithuania used by Jewish prisoners during the Holocaust. But in Imperial, the search turned up nothing. Grasson thinks that was because only a small segment of the Jacobsen property was searched.

In early December, there was another search, this one by Icon Films, using LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging. Again, no desert ship. Now Grasson wants to head back with a Geonics EM-61 MK IIA, a kind of ground-penetrating radar used on *The Curse of Oak Island*, a History Channel show about 140-acre plot of land off the Canadian coast that has hosted even more mysteries than the California desert.

As in a good television mystery, there are clues everywhere. We were driving to the Jacobsen farm when I saw *it* in a grove of trees behind which stood a modern-looking house: pointed directly at us was the wooden prow of a ship. A moment later I realized it was a child's play structure wedged between two trees. What was a ship doing out here, of all places? It was a hint, though also a taunt. It told us to keep looking.

That Explains Everything… and Nothing

Grasson is convinced his ship is buried on a farm near the sad, parched town of Imperial, but won't say more because he doesn't want the area to be overrun by "a bunch of idiots wrecking private property."Catherine Ledner for Newsweek

During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration published a guide to California. On page 461, there is an entry about Kane Springs, a speck on the western edge of the Salton Sea:

> One of the most prevalent of local myths concerns a Spanish galleon that sailed into the northernmost arm of the prehistoric Gulf of California, to be abandoned there with its fabulous cargo of gold. As the sea dried up, the hapless ship sank beneath the shifting dunes...The probable inspiration for the legend was a boat built in 1862 by a Colorado River mining company, transported part way across the desert by ox team, and then abandoned because of the difficulty of the journey from San Gorgonio Pass to the Colorado River.

This would explain why sightings of the desert ship began in the 1870s, by which time the abandoned boat, exposed to the elements, would have come to look like an ancient vessel.

“I don’t think that has anything to do with the lost ship of the desert,” Grasson says. It is exactly what I’d expected him to say. And I am glad he said it, for it would have been deflating to have his search voided by a single paragraph in an 80-year-old book.

You could argue that Grasson is wilfully blind to some facts, but we all practice the same kind of selective history-making. The Dutch didn’t really buy Manhattan from Lenape natives for $24, but that legend persists. John F. Kennedy will stay a paragon of 20th century liberalism, no matter how much we learn about his philandering, drug use and mafia associations. Some legends, when proliferated for malicious purposes, need to be revealed as the conspiracy theories and fake news stories they are. But others must be allowed to live, because without such nourishing nuggets of wonder, life can shrivel up into an endless series of tasks, captured and measured, posted on social media, forgotten.

Over breakfast at a diner in Indio, I asked Grasson what he would do if he discovered the ship. He answered with obvious delight: “I would take big nameplate with my name on it and go over to USC or UCLA and put it on their desk and go, 'Hi, I found it. That's my name. Don't misspell it.’”

© 2017 Newsweek LLC

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

ISSUE 2: SECRETS

Photo by Petra

The Season of the Witch

Why teenage girls are so dang scary.

SADY DOYLE 10/14/2011

When it comes time to write the history of Westerville, Ohio—a project that will be only slightly impeded by the fact that the historians keep having to be replaced every few weeks, as they slip into boredom-induced comas—no one will include the following story. It is too strange, too eerie—to be frank, just too unbelievable. And indeed, many of the girls who experienced the strange phenomenon I am about to describe will deny it. Perhaps they've forgotten. Then again, perhaps they are only trying to forget. After all, they are respectable women now. The dark and eldritch forces they once encountered have no place in their lives today.

But it did happen. I know it. I was there. And so I alone shall recount to you this terrifying paranormal tale: for several months, the entire youth culture of Westerville, Ohio, was based on *The Craft*.

Yes, I'm talking about that one movie, with Fairuza Balk. *The Craft* was about four teenage girls—representing the elements of water, earth, air, and fire—who formed a "coven" to worship "Manon" and/or make some freaky stuff happen with their minds. They became prettier, caused the downfall of mean girls, made cute boys fall in love with them—you know, the usual witch stuff. As it turns out, *The Craft* was a horror movie, and the girls' spells ended in death, attempted rape, and psychiatric hospitalization. But nobody focused on that part. We, the teen girls of Westerville, Ohio, had just learned that banding together in groups could potentially give us freaky mind powers. And we wanted in.

We wore more eyeliner; we checked out our friends' astrological signs to see who could embody which element; we passed around a Wiccan spell book someone had shoplifted from Barnes & Noble; as one, we entered into one of the goofiest, most Yankee Candle–centric epochs of our young lives.

I've since learned that this bout of film-inspired teen witchery has struck other towns, and other women. Which, really, is not at all surprising. Much of the world's paranormal history has to do with adults being terrified of teenage girls.

Before there was *The Craft*, there were the Salem witch trials, which started because the young girls of the town were engaging in unearthly, demonic behavior—such as "screaming" and "throwing things." You know. The sort of thing you'd *never* do as a 12-year-old, especially not if you were stuck in a freezing-cold Puritan settlement where the funnest activity was churning butter. Their parents took a quick look, were like, "Clearly, Satan has done this," and promptly went about slaughtering half the town. In the 20th century, Anneliese Michel—an epileptic, mentally ill girl who started to have seizures and hear voices at 16—died of starvation and dehydration because her parents chose to hire exorcists instead of getting her to a hospital. They were convicted of manslaughter, but her grave is still visited by people who believe she was possessed, and, thanks to two or three pseudo-biopics, Anneliese's story has become a central part of the disturbing pop culture tradition of movies about young girls or teens who are possessed by Satan. Oh, and by the way: do you have a poltergeist? Check again! Many people who believe in ghosts believe that the presence of a teenage girl in the house attracts malevolent spirits, who feed off of their burgeoning sexiness and intense, girly emotions.

All of this is typical girl-fear. Once you realize that *The Exorcist* is, essentially, the story of a 12-year-old who

starts cussing, masturbating, and disobeying her mother—in other words, going through puberty—it becomes apparent to the feminist-minded viewer why two adult men are called in to slap her around for much of the third act. People are convinced that something spooky is going on with girls; that, once they reach a certain age, they lose their adorable innocence and start tapping into something powerful and forbidden. Little girls are sugar and spice, but women are just plain scary. And the moment a girl becomes a woman is the moment you fear her most.

Which explains why the culture keeps telling this story. But it doesn't explain why girls are drawn to it, or why we would be compelled to play it out, even in its goofiest and Fairuza-Balkiest incarnations. Why is the Ouija board inevitably brought to the sleepover, in spite of the fact that every single session brings on pants-peeing levels of terror? Why did at least one girl in 1999 claim that she had been converted to a whole new religion by watching *Charmed* and *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*? (Melissa Joan Hart has played many roles, but I'm of the opinion that "spiritual counselor" should not be among them.) Why can I, to this day, read your tarot cards and explain in some great detail the importance of your sun sign as compared to your ascendant?

Well, note the differences between these stories. When one girl gets possessed by Satan, she is smacked and yelled at by the grown-ups until the evil leaves her. But in the stories about witches that made girls actually want to be do magic—*The Craft*, *Charmed*, *Buffy*—the power comes, in some essential way, from being together. And together is what we were, or what we tried to be, in the time we thought we were magic.

There were a lot of things that my friends and I were scared of, during our *Craft* mania. We were scared of our bodies. We were scared of the attention that our bodies were receiving. We were scared of dating, and of sex. But we were also scared that we'd never date, or that we'd never have sex. We were scared of college; we were scared that we might not get into college. We were scared of driving, and scared of not getting the license. We were scared that we might grow up to be our parents. We were scared that we didn't know what to do with our lives. We were scared of tests, auditions, try-outs, games, and recitals. We were scared of increased responsibility, and scared of our own powerlessness. We were scared of our classmates. And every day, we kept on turning into someone else—turning into our new selves, our grown-up selves—and we had no idea what the outcome would be, or if we'd like it. So, more than anything, we were scared of ourselves. But here's one thing that definitely didn't scare us: The idea that, if we supported each other and stuck together, we could somehow control all of this *just by wishing*.

And we didn't think we could do it without one another. That's the best part. There is something strong, maybe even magical, about teenage girls getting together and making very specific lists of what they want from life. Sooner or later, that stops taking the form of "I cast this spell of love, so that Travis Johnson will like me back" (or its inevitable follow-up, "I cast this spell of herpes upon Travis Johnson") and starts taking the form of real, practical strength. My friends and I honestly believed that if we stuck by one another and searched for power within ourselves, we would find it. And we weren't wrong.

There is something scary about being a teenage girl. There's something frightening about any state of life that involves so many mysteries, and so many drastic changes. But the thing that many people find scariest—the idea that there's a force in teenage girls that doesn't follow the rules and can't be controlled, that these girls might be going off together and forging something new, something unknown and surprisingly powerful—isn't scary at all. It's deeply awesome. And, unlike the deathly curses uttered by Ouija boards, it's real. ♦

teen witches the craft the exorcist westerville

RELATED ARTICLES

Literally the Best Thing Ever: Famous Goth Kids

Your Teen Witch BFF

Teen Witch

show 35 comments

Copyright © 2017 Rookie. All rights reserved.

ILLUSTRATION BY SOFIA BEWS

This ad is supporting your extension Allow Right-Click: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

Snikt! This new material self-heals like Wolverine's skin

pe.com

Team of scientists has created a self-healing material that could be used to create muscles for robots and a host of other applications.

By AARON CLAVERIE/ STAFF WRITER

Published: Dec. 30, 2016 Updated: Jan. 1, 2017 10:38 p.m.

DEEP DIVE

The key difficulty is the identification of bonds that are stable and reversible under electrochemical conditions.

Wang used a mechanism called ion-dipole interactionsto create the material with the properties the researchers sought.

The material can stretch 50 times its original length. After being cut, it can completely reattach, or heal, in 24 hours at room temperature. In fact, after only five minutes of healing the material can be stretched two times its original length.

Source: UCR

Inspired in part by the comic book character of Wolverine, a team of scientists has created a self-healing material that could revolutionize the design of cellphone batteries, biosensors and muscles flexed by robots of the future.

The team, which includes members from UC Riverside, had its findings published in the journal Advanced Materials on Dec. 23., sparking inquiries from international and domestic scientists who want to collaborate on applications and refinement of the material.

“I’m getting (more than 10) emails per day from everywhere in the world: U.S., Europe and Asia,” said Chao Wang, a UCR adjunct assistant professor of chemistry who co-authored the paper.

Wang, 31, said Friday that he was drawn to this type of material because of his fascination with the abilities of Wolverine, a Canadian mutant whose body quickly re-heals after it’s injured.

The team, which also included researchers from the University of Colorado, Boulder, worked to replicate the self-healing part of the hero’s makeup but they also sought to make it transparent, highly stretchable and conductive so that it could be used to power artificial muscles and improve batteries, electronic devices, and robots.

Wang said one potential use would be for creation of a self-healing biceps, which would allow for a robot to have a human-esque range of motion that is more durable than existing materials.

“People in this area have been working for years to find this kind of material,” he said.

Another author of the paper, Christoph Keplinger, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, previously demonstrated that stretchable, transparent, ionic conductors can be used to power artificial muscles and to create transparent loudspeakers – devices that feature several of the key properties of the new material (transparency, high stretchability and ionic conductivity) – but none of these devices additionally had the ability to self-heal from mechanical damage, according to a UCR release.

Ionic conductivity is a key part of the material's existence because because self-healing is achieved by combining the right balance of polar-ions and a salty solution that works to bind those ions.

Tim Morrissey, a Ph.D. student of mechanical engineering at Colorado, called it the "Goldlocks combination."

"There are four main ingredients – ratio is very important," he said, adding that much of the trial and error work to define that ratio was done in Riverside.

Publication of a paper like this is often just the beginning for a new discovery and Morrissey said he's particularly excited about working with the material in the future, and testing it to see how much damage it can withstand.

"Maybe we can prove this thing is stronger than we really thought," he said.

The researchers used electrical signals to get the artificial muscle to move, according to the release. So, just like how a human muscle (such as a biceps) moves when the brain sends a signal to the arm, the artificial muscle also reacts when it receives a signal.

Most importantly, the researchers were able to demonstrate that the ability of the new material to self-heal can be used to mimic a pre-eminent survival feature of nature: wound-healing. After parts of the artificial muscle were cut into two separate pieces, the material healed without relying on external stimuli, and the artificial muscle returned to the same level of performance as before being cut.

Copyright © 2017 The Press-Enterprise & Digital First Media. All Rights Reserved.
| | | |

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Teen boy rushed to hospital after circumcising himself using a MACHETE

express.co.uk

EXPRESS Home of the Daily and Sunday Express

express_logo

Teen boy rushed to hospital after circumcising himself using a MACHETE

A TEENAGE boy used a machete to circumcise his penis after being mocked by friends.

By Zoe Efstathiou
PUBLISHED: 02:53, Sun, Jan 15, 2017 | UPDATED: 03:29, Sun, Jan 15, 2017

The boy turned to the extreme measure after friends mocked him and said he wouldn't get a girlfriend.

After carrying out his own circumcision using the nearest implement to hand - a machete - the teen was rushed to hospital.

He spent two days receiving treatment at St Luke's Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe's Lupane District.

Doctors were baffled as to why he had attempted to remove his own foreskin when voluntary healthcare professionals could have visited him at home.

ST LUKE'S MISSION HOSPITAL

Dr Nyasha Masuka, medical director of Matabeleland North Province, said: "t seems the other boys were laughing at him for not being circumcised so he used a machete to circumcise himself and he injured himself in the process."

"He was rushed to St Lukes Hospital where the health staff circumcised him."

The disturbing incident comes just a few weeks after a Muslim boy's penis was sliced in half during a botched circumcision using a laser technique.

In Islam, Muslim boys need to be circumcised while in primary school in what is seen as a rite of passage.

The boy's parents took him to a clinic in Western Malaysia, where doctors bungled the operation and ended up severing the boy's penis.

Kajang district police said charged of gross bodily harm were likely to be filed, which carry a penalty of two year's imprisonment.

ajang district police officer ACP Othman Nanyan said they had started an investigation and had already interviewed several medical personnel and other people involved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Serial killer's daughter worried grandson will grow up to be like him

metro.co.uk

Jimmy Nsubuga for Metro.co.ukMonday 16 Jan 2017 4:01 pm

Mikhail Popkov with daughter Ekaterinan (Picture: The Siberian Times)

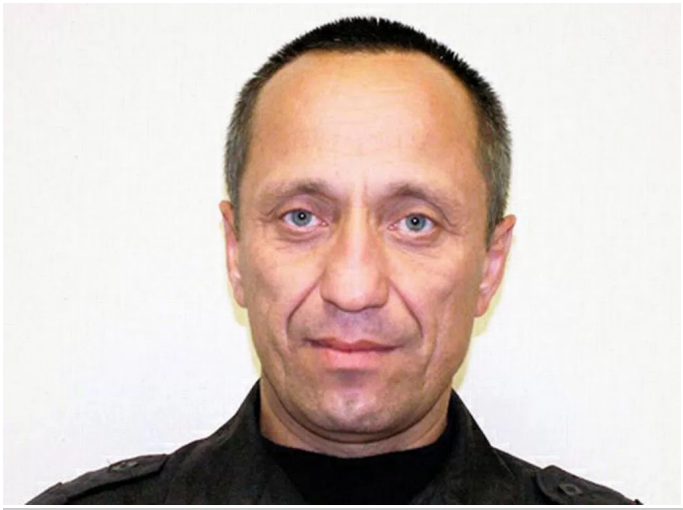
The daughter of a serial killer who is believed to have murdered 81 women is worried her child may grow up to be just like him.

Mikhail Popkov, a former policeman, recently confessed to killing 59 women aged from 17 to 38.

This was on top of the 22 murders the 'Siberian werewolf' had already been convicted of in 2015.

His daughter Ekaterina (Katya) had initially refused to believe the 52-year-old was capable of the crimes but is now less sure.

She is particularly worried her unborn son will 'inherit the maniacal inclination of his grandfather'.



Siberian 'Werewolf' serial killer confessed to 81 murders (Picture: The Siberian Times)

Ekaterina has apparently sought advice from psychiatrists and is eager for her father to see a specialist too.

But she and other members of her family are still struggling to believe Popkov was responsible for the murders and described him as the 'best father'.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Scientists close to bringing extinct SEVEN FOOT GIANT COW back to life

express.co.uk

express_logo

Scientists close to bringing extinct SEVEN FOOT GIANT COW back to life

RESEARCHERS are close to bringing back a breed of giant cattle, known as aurochs, back to life after they died out nearly 400 years ago.

By Will Kirby
PUBLISHED: 03:09, Fri, Dec 30, 2016 | UPDATED: 04:26, Fri, Dec 30, 2016

GETTY

Using a process known as back-breeding, which involves selectively mating existing varieties of cattle, scientists believe they will soon develop a beast that shares the same characteristics as the fabled auroch.

Hundreds of calves have been born since the Operation Tauros initiative began in 2009 and with each successive generation the scientists come closer to achieving their aim.

The auroch's renowned size - they stood at nearly seven feet tall and weighed around one tonne - as well as their quick tempers are key characteristics scientists are trying to replicate as they gradually come closer to bringing aurochs back from the dead.

The legendary animal used to roam around the forests of Europe and even ventured into Asia and North Africa, but the last known specimen died in Poland in 1627.

They have not been seen in Britain since the Iron Age, more than 2000 years ago.

Professor Donato Matassino, an Italian scientist taking part in Operation Tauros, told The Telegraph: "I don't think we'll ever be able to create an animal that is 100 per cent like the aurochs, but we can get very close.

It is hoped aurochs could be slowly released back into the wild, finding their home in the woods and forests of northern Europe.

GETTY

Prof Matassimo continued: “They’d play an important role in the ecology of the forest, trampling vegetation, eating bushes and keeping meadows and grassland clear.”

GETTY

Aurochs have been depicted in cave paintings across Europe and were even written about by Roman emperor Julius Caesar.

Caesar described them as “a little below the elephant in size, and of the appearance, colour and shape of a bull.

“Their strength and speed are extraordinary; they spare neither man nor wild beast which they have espied.”

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The Alleged Sewer Werewolves of Minot

lindagodfrey.com

https://lindagodfrey.com/2017/01/30/the-alleged-sewer-werewolves-of-minot/

Lindagodfrey's Blog

Author & Investigator of Strange Creatures

« Live Sunday 11 pm CST on The Secret Teachings

January 30, 2017 by lindagodfrey

Image by Linda Godfrey copyright 2017 all rights reserved

Image by Linda Godfrey copyright 2017 all rights reserved

About eight years ago I did something I always try very hard *not* to do: I lost a file on a possible upright canine case alleging there were werewolves roaming the sewers of Minot, North Dakota. I remember having been intrigued by the story and setting my printout of the report aside to investigate further. Much to my chagrin, it then disappeared. It had somehow slipped between two file folders, but I only just discovered that the other day while arranging my office after a recent move. I was delighted to find it, and decided it was about time I posted the short account in case someone else might know more.

I'd received the email February 24, 2008, from a man who claimed to be a law enforcement agent in North Dakota, and who wanted to stay anonymous for fear of affecting his employment. The man I'll call Pete said he'd been talking to an associate who told him about a recent interview he'd had with a burglary suspect. The associate said the suspect asked him if he had heard about the "werewolves" in Minot.

Enter a caption

Credit: City of Minot, by Bobak Ha'Eri, photo via Wikimedia Commons

"The guy [burglar] went on to explain," said Pete, "that he and a friend of his were fooling around by a large culvert down by the river. (This particular culvert is about six feet across, easy for a man to walk in. It is inside the city of Minot and leads right out to the bank of the river.) The suspect said that he and his friend had seen something in the shadows that was about seven feet tall. He told my friend that they had also stepped on what they thought was a body while they were walking in the culvert. He stated that he and his friend had run out of there.

"The suspect had said that werewolves were living in the sewer system. While this sounds, of course, crazy…I have been noticing a few things since hearing the story: The city police department has had a couple of calls within the past couple of months concerning manhole covers being displaced, or off of manholes around town. Normally I wouldn't think twice about those types of calls, but it now strikes me as odd."

Pete said he put the information in the back of his mind until he heard me on the *Coast to Coast AM* radio show and suddenly wondered if there might be more to it. I've been trying to reach him, in return, but to no avail. I did confirm that he was indeed a law enforcement officer at the time and place he stated. But I like to have a bit more info when I post a case, especially when it's a third-hand report and the original source is an alleged

burglar. Since I've mentioned the report briefly in a book and on some radio shows, however, I decided to offer the information I have. I'll be sure to update here if I do finally reach the original writer or find other sources.

Image by Linda Godfrey copyright 2017 all rights reserved Enter a caption

Manhole Steps, by Silenzio76, photo via Wikimedia Commons

Personally, I've never been able to shake that mental image of two criminals stumbling over a dead body as they flee the culvert after spotting a seven-plus-feet-tall "something" watching them from the shadows. And Minot may not be the only place where people should take extra care around city water and drainage systems. In "Monsters Among Us" I shared the story of a brother and sister who claim to have seen something similar in a Los Angeles suburb. And Minot does boast a river and lies near several wildlife refuges so the habitat is certainly there.

As I said, I'll keep you posted. In the meantime I wouldn't blame anyone for deciding to give manhole covers a wider berth–just to be on the safe side.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Tortoise gives himself arthritis by having too much sex

metro.co.uk

Jimmy Nsubuga for Metro.co.ukFriday 13 Jan 2017 6:00 pm

Bert the African spurred tortoise (Picture: SWNS)

A sex-mad tortoise has developed arthritis after, erm, making ‘the tortoise with two backs’ too often.

Poor old horny Bert now requires wheels in order to get around his home at the Dinosaur Adventure Park in Norfolk.

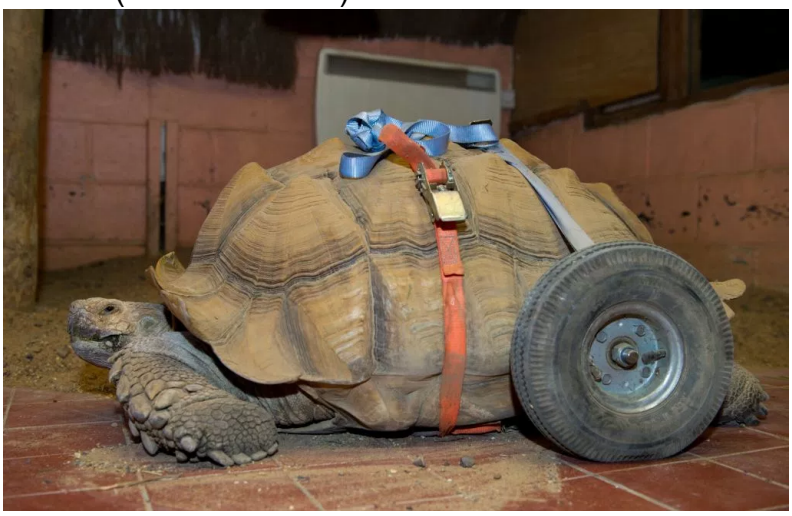
The 22-year-old African spurred tortoise had developed swelling in his rear legs when he returned from a breeding programme in 2011.

The two month session saw him sleep with five females producing an unknown number of offspring.

‘He is a lover not a fighter, that is certainly true,’ said Martin Hocking, acting manager at the park’s Secret Animal Garden.

‘African spurred tortoises are prolific breeders who can produce up to 60 to 70 offspring a year and he is no exception.’

Bert with animal keeper Bert Wallder at the Dinosair Adventure Park in Norfolk (Picture: SWNS)



Bert was never the same after he came back from a breeding session in 2011 (Picture: SWNS)

Bert’s massive libido looks to have taken its toll and he has spent the past eight weeks on his wheels.

‘The wheels help Bert’s mobility and will hopefully help him heal by aiding circulation,’ park operations manager Adam Goymour added.

‘The public are always interested by Bert and wonder why he has wheels, there is a sign up on the window of his enclosure that tells all the info about his previous injury and why he is on the wheels.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

SF gynecologist warns women not to use the jade vagina eggs Goop is selling

By Alyssa Pereira
Updated 1:56 pm, Friday, January 20, 2017

sfgate.com

SFGATE http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/SF-gynecologist-warns-women-not-to-use-the-jade-10872323.php

Gwyneth Paltrow is trying to sell you better sex. Angeli Kakade (@angelikakade) has the story.

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow's online store Goop isn't known to be a beacon of good health tips, but information about the latest products under fire, $66 dollar egg-shaped stones made of jade and rose quartz, is being blasted for being "the biggest load of garbage" one San Francisco gynecologist has ever seen on Paltrow's site.

Dr. Jennifer Gunter, an Ob-Gyn in San Francisco took to her blog to write an open letter to Paltrow Tuesday, decrying the actress' selling of the items as "a bad idea."

"It's even worse than claiming bras cause cancer," she writes. "But hey, you aren't one to let facts get in the way of profiting from snake oil."

As Dr. Gunter writes, the author of a Goop blog post's claim that these eggs can balance hormones is "biologically impossible" and that using these eggs for extended periods of time is not only completely ineffective in improving a woman's sex life (and really, in any respect), it's also dangerous.

"As for the recommendation that women sleep with a jade egg in their vaginas I would like to point out that jade is porous which could allow bacteria to get inside and so the egg could act like a fomite," she adds. "This is not good, in case you were wondering. It could be a risk factor for bacterial vaginosis or even the potentially deadly toxic shock syndrome."

On Friday morning, after Dr. Gunter's blog post had gained attention, she returned to the blog to write another post highlighting Goop's response to her criticisms. As she wrote, Goop did not provide a statement in response to the doctor's letter, but rather, pointed to a disclaimer at the bottom of the Goop blog post about the eggs, which reads:

"The views expressed in this article intend to highlight alternative studies and induce conversation. They are the views of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of goop, and are for informational purposes only, even if and to the extent that this article features the advice of physicians and medical practitioners. This article is not, nor is it intended to be, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment, and should never be relied upon for specific medical advice."

In response to Goop's disclaimer, Dr. Gunter reiterated her concern.

"A jade eggthusiast is a 'medical practitioner' in the way a magician is a 'medical practitioner,'" she wrote. "I see women harmed by this kinds of snake oil passed off as legitimate therapy every single day, whether they have caused physical pain (which wearing jade eggs for extended periods of time most certainly could), medical consequences from delaying real therapy that could actually help, emotional pain from being duped, months of deprivation from a useless diet, or financial pain from wasting $66 on a product that could never hope to help."

Hearst Newspapers © Copyright 2017 Hearst Communications, Inc.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Wisconsin boy uses hoverboard as snow-clearing 'hoverplow'

upi.com

By Ben Hooper | Jan. 26, 2017 at 2:17 PM

A Wisconsin boy clears snow using his hoverboard. Screenshot: Steve Scherer/YouTube

Jan. 26 (UPI) -- A Wisconsin boy's snow-clearing ingenuity is going viral thanks to a video showing him using his hoverboard to plow snow.

Tanner Scherer, 13, appears in a YouTube video using his hoverboard and a snow shovel as a "hoverplow" to clear snow from in front of his Sun Prairie home.

"If it's like an inch or two of really light snow, that's the time it works the best," the boy told WKOW-TV.

Jodi Scherer, the boy's mother, said she admires her son's ingenuity.

"It's creative, it's inventive," Jodi said. "Tanner has always loved the snow and the winter."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Six decapitated heads found in Mexico on Christmas Day

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukMonday 26 Dec 2016 9:59 am

Six decapitated heads have been found in the Mexican municipality of Jiquilpan (Picture: EPA)

The six heads were found in Jiquilpan, a town near the state of Jalisco, the Michoacan state prosecutor's office confirmed.

Jalisco has become a battleground between competing drug gangs over the past few years.

The six men have not yet been identified and their bodies have not been found.

Meanwhile, state security officials in the neighbouring state of Guerrero said gunmen entered a house and shot dead seven people in the municipality of Atoyac de Alvarez.

Five were members of one family and two were a married couple.

State security spokesman Roberto Alvarez Heredia said two of the seven killed were municipal police officers and one a state police officer.

The preliminary investigation suggested the gunmen wanted to kill one of the victims in a revenge attack but ended up killing them all.

Guerrero, where Acapulco is located, is one of the states most plagued by drug gang violence.

MetroUK @MetroUK

© 2016 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

NEWS

Skull recreation attempts to solve 'perfect mystery' behind untimely death of artist Tom Thomson

JOSEPH BREAN | January 26, 2017 11:34 PM ET
More from Joseph Brean | @JosephBrean

Republish
Reprint

Aartist Michael Markowsky holds up a clay facial reconstruction — that may or may not be based on Tom Thomson's skull — made by forensic artist Louise Solecki-Wier. James Masters/The Owen Sound Sun Times/Postmedia Network

A hundred years ago this summer, the painter Tom Thomson died in Ontario's Algonquin Park.

His artistic legacy is unquestioned. Barely five years of serious painting during the First World War produced works, like The West Wind and Northern River, that still inspire the Canadian imagination of wilderness. His contemporary admirers became the Group of Seven, almost in his honour, like apostles carrying on the work of a lost prophet.

But Thomson's death, a month shy of his 40th birthday, continues to be a source of mystery. Like the Kennedy assassination for Americans, picking through the Thomson theories about murder and grave-robbing has become almost a parlour game. And now, a

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

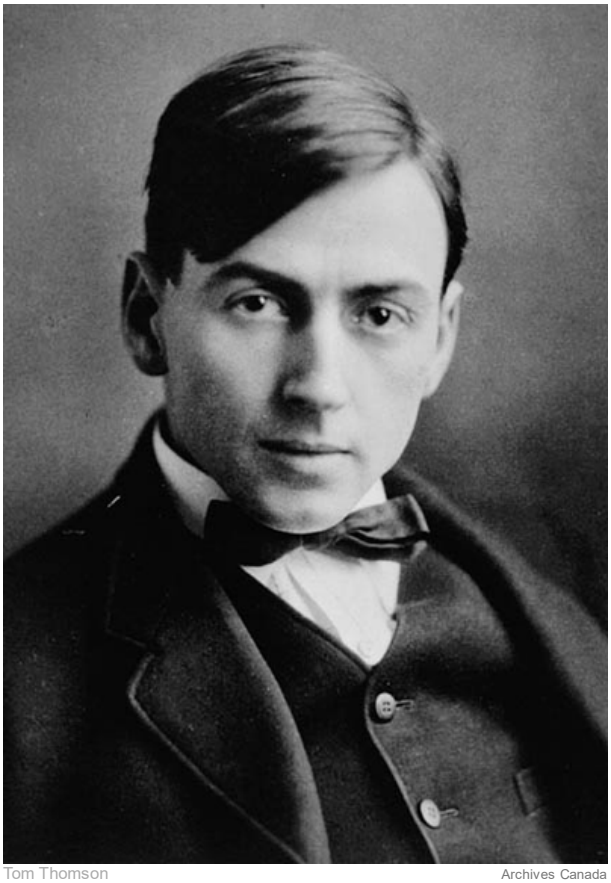
new art project in honour of the artist's centenary has added another wrinkle, and perhaps even a chance for modern day fans to look Thomson in the eye, in three dimensions.

Drawing on autopsy photographs of a skull unearthed from a grave that once (at least briefly) contained Thomson's body, Michael Markowsky, an artist and professor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, and sculptor Louise Solecki Weir have produced a head that bears an uncanny resemblance to photographs of Thomson.

Markowsky's first thought on seeing the finished product was "Wow, that's Tom. We've solved the mystery."

If so, then the great Canadian conspiracy theory is true. Thomson's grave near Owen Sound, Ont., does not actually contain his body, perhaps just stones put there by an unscrupulous undertaker. And Thomson's true resting place is in the woods above Canoe Lake, marked with a white-washed cross in a stand of evergreens, near the ruins of the logging town of Mowat.

But if the skull belongs to someone else, then a serious indignity has been committed. In that case, this man — likely indigenous, according to forensic examiners — has been denied both a proper burial and a criminal investigation into the suspicious circumstances of how his body ended up secretly buried in the rough grave of Canada's greatest painter, with a hole in the left temple of his skull.



Tom Thomson Archives Canada

Either way, the legends live on.

"I think it's a perfect mystery because so many people have such conflicting memories of him," said Markowsky, whose certainty about the identity of the recreated skull has wavered, such that he is no longer sure what to believe.

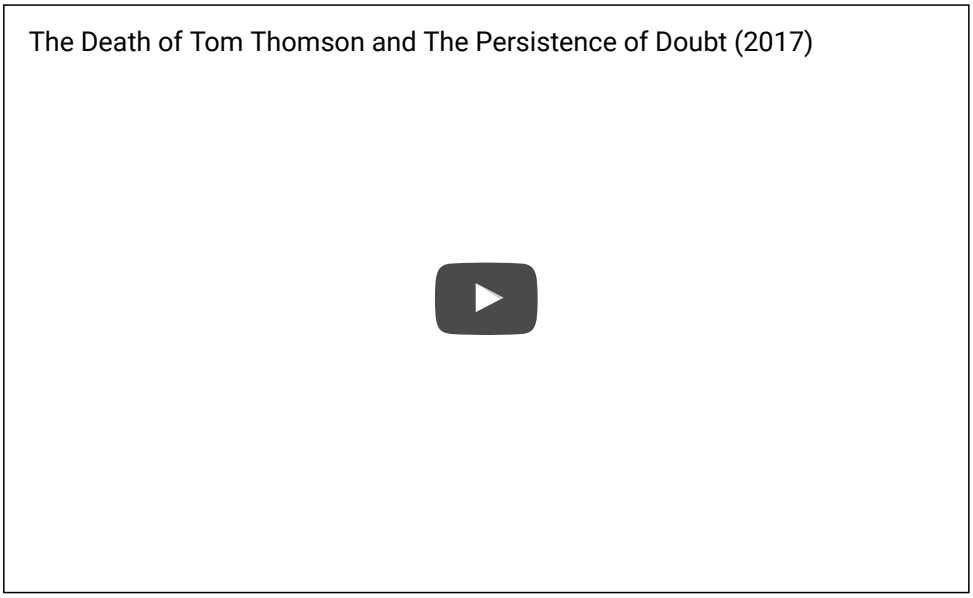
The mystery began in early July 1917, when Thomson was back in Algonquin for a fifth summer, painting on small wooden boards that he would enlarge in Toronto over the winter.

He was last seen July 8. Two days later, his canoe was found, with paddles lashed inside as if for portaging. Six days after that, his decomposing body was found out in Canoe Lake, with fishing line wrapped mysteriously around his legs.

A doctor examined the body and concluded he drowned. A coroner supported this, and ruled it accidental, which remains the leading theory, that this accomplished canoe tripper somehow fell, either on shore or in the canoe, perhaps hitting his head, and it was the motion of the waves and currents that wrapped his fishing line around his legs.

He was buried immediately in the Mowat plot, but dug up two days later and interred in the family plot near Owen Sound.

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join



As Thomson's legacy grew in the following years, interest in his death rose, and new theories emerged, notably about a love affair, bad blood with various local men, even suicide. In 1956, a judge called William Little dug up the Mowat grave with three friends, and rather than find it empty, they found a man's skeleton, with that worrisome hole in the skull.

That led to a police investigation and a coroner's report that concluded this was the skeleton of an indigenous man, not Thomson, and it was simply reburied, unmarked. The coroner, Noble Sharpe, died last year, and left a trove of records to the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in Owen Sound, which is how Markowsky came to be involved.

With great drama and secrecy, the gallery offered these records to Markowsky for what turned into his exhibit, now on display at the gallery, called The Persistence Of Doubt. It includes sketches by Markowsky of the possible scenarios of Thomson's death, from a bad fall to falling asleep drunk in his canoe, to being shot from shore. It also includes the mysterious head.

"I felt there's a difference between a sculpture and a drawing," Markowsky said. "It exists, and people would have to confront it and think about it."

To make it, he started talking to experts, forensic anthropologists, police consultants, people who knew how to put flesh on bones. That is how he met Solecki Weir, a portrait sculptor who mainly does heads, and who has studied forensic techniques in the U.S., including at a Texas university "body farm," where cadavers are left in different environments to see how they decay.

Related

Tom Thomson's 'last painting' expected to sell for between $500,000 and $700,000 at Toronto auction

As Lawren Harris rules Canada's art landscape, is Tom Thomson's cachet fading?

She built a three-dimensional rendering of the skull, based on two autopsy pictures — a front view and profile — and also images of the skull just after it was dug up, which gave a useful perspective at an angle. A Vancouver coroner guided her, advising that it was probably an adult white man, not too old to judge by the good teeth.

Using a chart of average flesh depths, and with some guidance from the bone on the shape of the nose, she built up a head. The effort was "probably more art than science because I built the skull as well," she said. The hair was certainly artistic. She researched hair styles of Thomson's era, and reproduced a common one, but tried to make it as inconspicuous as possible.

She was more skeptical than Markowsky. "The forehead slope of my fellow is quite pronounced," she said. He also has a pronounced overbite, which Thomson did not seem to have. But like Markowsky, her view has changed.

"I was quite dubious it was Tom Thomson until I saw a photo at the art gallery, taken when he was quite older," she said. "Oh boy, now I'm not sure again."

• *Email: jbrean@nationalpost.com | Twitter:* Follow @JosephBrean 1,075 followers

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

A drawing by Michael Markowsky that depicts one theory of how artist Tom Thomson may have died in 1917. Michael Markowsky

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

A drawing by Michael Markowsky that depicts one theory of how artist Tom Thomson may have died in 1917. Michael Markowsky

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

A drawing by Michael Markowsky that depicts one theory of how artist Tom Thomson may have died in 1917. Michael Markowsky

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

A drawing by Michael Markowsky that depicts one theory of how artist Tom Thomson may have died in 1917. Michael Markowsky

LATEST NEWS VIDEOS

AP Top Stories 26 P

AP Top Stories 26 P

AP Top Stories 26 P

Trump Talks About Obamacare, Supreme Court Pick

Find National Post on Facebook

Topics: **Canada**, **News**, **Editors' Choice**, **Tom Thomson**

POST POINTS | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader | Sign In | Learn More | Join

Slavery in Quebec: Shedding light

http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/slavery-in-quebec-shedding-light-on-a-largely-unknov

MONIQUE POLAK, SPECIAL TO THE MONTREAL GAZETTE

Email (mailto:?subject=Mon news%2Fsla in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- history%0A)

Twitter (https://twitt url=http%3A news%2Fsla in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- history%2F&

Facebook (http://www u=http%3A news%2Fsla i

Linkedin (http://www. mini=true&url= news%2Fslavery- unknown- in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- history%2F&

Pinterest (http://pinter url=http%3A news%2Fsla in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- que- january- 14-2017- rapper- and- historian- webst.jpeg%3Fquality%3D55%2

Google+ (https://plus url=http%3A news%2Fslavery- in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- /share? montrealgaz

SHARE

Aly Ndiaya at the Quebec City site where Guillaume Couillard, a distant relative of Premier Philippe Couillard, kept a

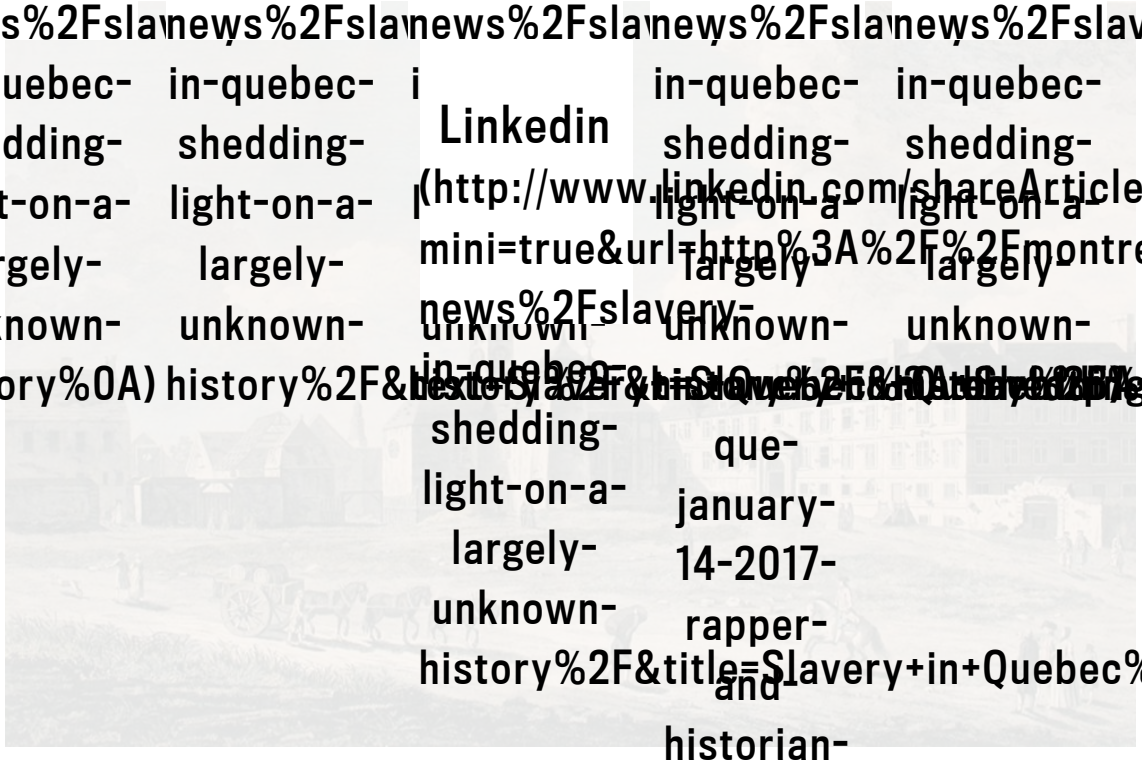
Slavery in Quebec: Shedding light on a largely unknown history

QUEBEC CITY — Aly Ndiaye uses the heel of his boot to remove the frozen snow from a display case outside city hall, and reveals a reproduction of a 1760

http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/slavery-in-quebec-shedding-light-on-a-largely-unknov

remark on the gaping holes caused by cannon fire.

Email (mailto:?subject=Mon news%2Fsla in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- history%0A) Twitter (https://twitt url=http%3A news%2Fsla in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- history%2F&te Facebook (http://www u=http%3A news%2Fsla i Linkedin (http://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle? mini=true&url=http%3A%2F%2Fmontrealgaz news%2Fslavery- in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- history%2F&title=Slavery+in+Quebec%3A+S Pinterest (http://pinter url=http%3A news%2Fslavery- in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown- que- january- 14-2017- rapper- and- historian- webst.jpeg%3Fquality%3D55%2 Google+ (https://plus url=http%3A news%2Fslavery- in-quebec- shedding- light-on-a- largely- unknown-



1760 print by British military artist Richard Short depicts damage to the Jesuit college sustained during the British conquest of Quebec City. A figure in the foreground — a boy in white knee socks — "the first image of a black person in Quebec," Ndiaye says. *MCCORD MUSEUM*

"This is the first image of a black person in Quebec," Ndiaye explains. "Maybe even in Canadian history."

The boy's formal attire and the safe distance he maintains behind the couple indicate that the child, who does not appear to be older than 10, was their slave.

The display, Ndiaye says, encapsulates black history in Quebec: "It's there, but we don't see it."

***

Aly Ndiaya at Collège François-de-Laval, the former Petit Séminaire de Québec, in Quebec City. Lines on the ground indicate the former location of the home of Guillaume Couillard, said to be a distant relative of Premier Philippe Couillard and the first French colonist to arrive in Quebec City. He is known to have acquired Olivier Lejeune as his slave. *MATHIEU BELANGER / MONTREAL GAZETTE*

February is Black History Month. In Quebec, most people are unaware of the black and native slavery in their province's past. And yet, between 1629 and 1833, there were a reported 4,185 slaves here. Many lived in Quebec City, where they were employed in the homes of wealthy and prestigious families.

"Elsewhere in the Americas, slaves were part of the economy — they worked on plantations, harvesting tobacco, cotton and sugar cane. But in Quebec, having a slave was a sign of social status," Ndiaye explains.

"Black slaves were twice as expensive as native slaves. They were considered more rare, they had travelled farther and were considered more robust."

Ndiaye, 37, is better known as Webster. He's a rap musician who has recorded seven albums — his most recent solo work is À l'ombre des feuilles — and grew up in the Quebec City neighbourhood of Limoilou.

He and his sister were the only two black students at their elementary school. Because his nose was always in a book, childhood friends called him Webster, after the dictionary. The name stuck.

In the 1990s, Ndiaye went on to study Canadian history at Université de Laval, though it was not until after he graduated that he stumbled across some information relating to the history of slavery in Quebec.

"I realized it wasn't normal that we hadn't talked about this in school. I thought, 'If they won't talk about it, I will.' "

Dorothy Williams, pictured in 2011, would like to see the history of black slavery in Quebec taught in schools. *PHIL CARPENTER / THE GAZETTE*

Dorothy Williams, a Montreal-based historian and author of three books about black Canadian history, would like to see the history of black slavery in Quebec taught in schools.

"As Canadians, we spend a lot of time comparing ourselves to the U.S., and one of the key distinctions we make is saying we didn't have slavery — but we did," says Williams, who owns blacbiblio.com (http://blacbiblio.com), which develops African-Canadian pedagogical materials.

"There are three or four generations of us walking around without knowing anything about it."

Ndiaye turned first to rap to communicate what he learned about the history of slavery in Quebec. His song Qc. History X cites the story of Olivier Lejeune, the first black man in Quebec, who was enslaved from the age of 8.

Lejeune studied the alphabet and catechism at the Jesuit residence on the Seigneurie Notre-Dame-des-Anges in what is now Limoilou. Born in Madagascar, Lejeune's name was given to him by Paul Le Jeune, the Jesuit who baptized him.

"Most of the African slaves who came to the Americas lost their African names," Ndiaye says. "It's a shame because this signifies a loss of identity and history."

Because rap reaches mostly young fans, Ndiaye decided he needed to find other ways to bring the history of slavery in Quebec to a wider audience. He started presenting conferences across North America; last spring, he developed a guided walking tour in Quebec City that he also calls Qc. History X.

"The X," Nadiaye explains, "stands for the unknown."

Between April and November — Ndiaye suspends the tour during winter — he says he had some 500 customers.

"My goal is to act as a bridge between history books and people today. The history of slavery in Quebec should be common knowledge."

Neil Schomaker, a Quebec City tour guide who trains other tour guides, invites Ndiaye to his classes to familiarize students with the history of slavery in Quebec.

"Most people mistakenly assume Canada was a haven for slaves — and it was, during the last years of American slavery," Schomaker says. "But for all of the French period and most of the British period, slavery was perfectly legal in Canada."

Visitors take pictures near the fortifications in Quebec City. Between 1629 and 1833, there were a reported 4,185 slaves in the province. Many lived in Quebec City, where they were employed in the homes of wealthy and prestigious families. *MATHIEU BELANGER / MONTREAL GAZETTE*

Ndiaye's two-hour tour begins in Place d'Youville, near the entrance to Old Quebec. Despite the absence of a plaque, he notes, visitors in the square are surrounded by evidence of this largely unknown chapter in the province's history.

The square is named for Marguerite d'Youville, founder of the Order of Sisters of Charity of Montreal, commonly known as the Grey Nuns, one of several religious orders that kept slaves.

"Despite their belief in Christian charity, orders like the Grey Nuns and the Jesuits, and the Ursulines in New Orleans, didn't see a problem with having slaves," Ndiaye says.

At one end of the square is Palais Montcalm, a concert hall named after the French general Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, who also kept slaves.

The nearby stone wall surrounding Old Quebec was the creation of military engineer Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry, another slave owner.

A horse-drawn carriage passes by the Maison Péan near the Plains of Abraham. The stone building was once the home of James Monk, chief justice of Lower Canada who heard the case of an escaped slave named Charlotte. Monk set Charlotte free, precipitating the end of slavery in Quebec. *MATHIEU BELANGER / MONTREAL GAZETTE*

The next stop is the former Petit Séminaire de Québec, now the Collège François-de-Laval. In the courtyard, Ndiaye points out the lines on the ground that indicate the former location of the home of Guillaume Couillard, said to be the first French colonist to arrive in Quebec City, in 1613, and a distant relative of Premier Philippe Couillard. In 1632, he is known to have acquired Olivier Lejeune as his slave.

Ndiaye wishes we knew more about Lejeune's life. Records indicate that in 1638, he was imprisoned for "calumny and defamation" after passing on a rumour that the British were returning to Quebec City. At the time, the colony was in the hands of the French, though it had been in British hands between 1629 and 1632.

We know, too, that Lejeune died in 1654 — he would have been about 30 — and that he was buried at the Cimetière de la Côte de la Montagne, Quebec City's oldest cemetery.

The saddest stop on Ndiaye's tour is the Redoute du Bourreau. Located in the Parc-de-l'Artillerie, just north of the entrance to Old Quebec, this is

where Mathieu Léveillé lived when he was forced to work as the city's executioner from 1733 until his death a decade later.

Born in Martinique, Léveillé attempted three times to escape the plantation where he was kept as a slave. As punishment, the authorities gave him two options: death, or be shipped to New France to work as a slave and executioner — a job no one else wanted.

An image depicting Marie-Josèphe Angélique is shown in a Cité Mémoire video projection in Montreal. Angélique was a slave who was sentenced to hang after she was accused of setting a fire that spread across what is now Old Montreal. *PETER MCCABE / MONTREAL GAZETTE*

The first person Léveillé put to death was Marie-Joseph Angélique, the best-known slave in Quebec history.

"She was accused of setting a fire in Montreal to cover up her alleged escape," Ndiaye says. "It's unclear whether she did set the fire. But it was a large fire that spread across most of what is now Old Montreal. The only witness against her was a 5-year-old child."

Léveillé was forced to torture Angélique before hanging her. "Afterwards," Ndiaye says, "Léveillé fell into a deep depression from which he never fully recovered."

A painting of James Monk. *MCCORD MUSEUM*

A more hopeful stop is Maison Péan on Rue St-Louis near the Plains of Abraham. Between 1784 and 1794, this stone building, now managed by Parks Canada, was the home of James Monk, the chief justice of Lower Canada after whom Monkland Ave. is named in Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood.

In 1798, Monk heard the case of an escaped slave named Charlotte. Unable to find a law that punished escaped slaves, he set Charlotte free.

"Word spread," Ndiaye says. "Other slaves heard what happened and left their masters. Monk refused to punish them too."

Though the British government did not vote to abolish slavery until 1833 — the law went into effect the following year — Monk's decision 35 years before precipitated the end of slavery in Quebec.

Even before Monk's ruling, not all blacks in Quebec were slaves. "Six per cent were free," Ndiaye says. Some had escaped from the United States, while others had been set free by their masters.

Today, Quebec City remains a largely homogeneous city — "still very white," Ndiaye says, "but it's changing."

Growing up in Limoilou, where he still lives, "there was a lack of diversity," he says. Now, "we need to see ourselves in the media, we need to develop a sense of Quebec identity, we need role models to follow."

Through his work as a musician, educator and tour guide, Ndiaye hopes to serve as the kind of role model he and his friends lacked.

"Doing the tours gives me a chance to give a voice to people who passed through history unnoticed — to free them from anonymity."

To learn more about the Qc. History X walking tour, visit www.qchistoryxtours.ca (http://www.qchistoryxtours.ca) or www.websterls.com (http://www.websterls.com)

Video: Quebecs history of slavery

The mosque shootings

Aly Ndiaye was not in Quebec City when a gunman killed six worshippers at a mosque in Ste-Foy on Jan. 29. He got the news from his sister.

“I was surprised, shocked and speechless,” he says.

“Quebec City is not xenophobic or racist. There are some people here who are, but there are more people here who are progressive.”

In the days following the attack, Ndiaye felt discouraged — “but then, I rallied. We have to work together to eradicate hatred.”

Slavery in Montreal

Aly Ndiaye would like to see a tour in Montreal similar to the one he offers in Quebec City. So would Dorothy Williams. But they say more research needs to be done on the history of slavery in Montreal.

Meanwhile, here are three sites that help tell the story of slavery in this city:

465 McGill St. This building marks the site of what was once the home of former slaves John Trim and his wife, Charlotte.

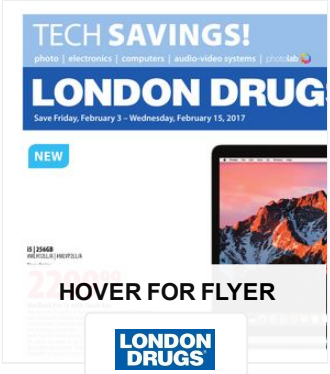
La Maison Parent-Roback, 10 Ste-Thérèse St. (corner of Vaudreuil St. in Old Montreal). This is the location of a plaque marking Marie-Joseph Angélique, the best known slave in Quebec history. Angélique was accused of setting a fire that led to the destruction of much of Old Montreal. She was executed in 1734 by Mathieu Léveillé, himself a slave.

Métro Champs-de-Mars. A stretch of green space just west of the métro station honours the memory of Marie-Joseph Angélique.

RELATED

More about Black History (http://montrealgazette.com/tag/black-history)

Montreal Flyers



Comments

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box to report spam or abuse. We are using Facebook commenting. Visit our FAQ page (http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/story.html?id=7195492) for more information.

(HTTP://WWW.POSTMEDIA.COM)

© 2017 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

Powered by WordPress.com VIP (https://vip.wordpress.com/?utm_source=vip_powered_wpcom&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=VIP%20Footer%20Credit)

This ad is supporting your extension Allow Right-Click: More info (chrome-extension://hompjdfbfmmmgflfjdlnkohcplmboaeo/./support/pages/adoptions.html) | Privacy Policy (chrome-extension://hompjdfbfmmmgflfjdlnkohcplmboaeo/./support/pages/privacy_policy.html) | Hide on this page (#)

Snake on a plane cancels Emirates flight to Dubai - BBC News

bbc.com

BBC

File photo of an albino Burmese python - the snake from the cancelled flight was not available for a photoshoot

Image copyrightGetty Images

An Emirates flight from Oman to Dubai was cancelled after staff found a snake on the plane.

Flight EK0863 from Muscat was grounded after baggage handlers found the serpent in the cargo hold.

A spokesperson for the airline, quoted by Dubai-based media, said the snake was found before passengers boarded the plane.

The aircraft was searched before re-entering service and arriving at its destination several hours later.

Emirates did not specify the species of snake, nor whether it was potentially dangerous.

Comparisons with the 2006 Samuel L Jackson thriller Snakes on a Plane, which sees passengers battle hundreds of highly poisonous snakes in mid-flight, inevitably emerged on social media.

But it's far from the first time a snake has tried to travel free of charge on planes from warm climates.

Passenger Indalecio Medina filmed the snake on a flight from Torreon to Mexico City

Media captionPassenger Indalecio Medina filmed a snake on a flight from Torreon to Mexico City last year

In November last year, passengers on a Mexico domestic flight were panicked by the appearance of a metre-long snake which dropped from the overhead compartments.

A 10ft (3m) scrub python was spotted clinging on to the wing as a plane made its way between the Australian town of Cairns and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea in 2013.

And in 2012, animal protection officers had to rescue a young Middle American smooth-scaled racer which arrived in Scotland on a flight from Mexico.

Copyright © 2017 BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Snow sculpting teams gather in Wisconsin for national event

yahoo.com

Associated PressFebruary 2, 2017

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. (AP) — Fifteen teams of snow sculptors from 13 states have gathered in Wisconsin for the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Championship.

The event began Wednesday in Lake Geneva, with judging set for Saturday morning.

The team that won last year for "Door Master" has disbanded, but all its members are taking part again this year on other teams. One of them, David Andrews, has been on nine teams that have taken first place.

The teams receive a cylinder block of snow eight feet in diameter and nine feet high. They can use only saws, axes, files, scaffolding, shovels and other homemade implements.

They will be judged on creativity, technique and message. The winner gets a trophy and an invite to an international snow sculpting competition.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

ODDLY HISTORICAL

The Somerton Man: Australia's Most Baffling Unsolved Case

The Black Dahlia. Jack the Ripper. The Zodiac Killings. JonBenet Ramsey. The Axeman of New Orleans.

These are some of the most captivating unsolved murder mysteries of all time and they share a common thread: all of the victims are known.

The Tamam Shud, also known as the Somerton Man, case is different. In this instance, the victim is an unknown man with some mysterious items in his possession and no known cause of death.

Police photo of the Somerton Man.

Somerton Beach

On November 30th, 1948, a couple went for a walk along Somerton Beach in Adelaide, Australia, around sunset. During their walk, they found a man lying in the sand, smoking a cigarette. His head was propped up against the seawall near a set of stairs leading to the nearby road and homes.

On a warm summer day like this, the couple, John Lyons and his wife, believed the man to be a drunk who stumbled down the stairs. They thought nothing much about the man being dressed in a suit with highly polished shoes.

The couple continued on their walk. A half-hour later, they returned to the scene to find the man lying motionless in the same position they'd found him earlier. Mosquitoes buzzed around his face. The couple joked that he was "dead to the world" drunk.

Somerton Beach. The place where the victim's body was found is marked with a black X.

The next morning, John Lyons learned the man wasn't dead drunk the night before. He was dead. Lyons saw a commotion on the beach where the man laid the night before and went to investigate the scene.

He found the man lying in the same position as yesterday. There was a half-smoked cigarette resting on the dead man's collar.

Authorities took the dead man to the Royal Adelaide Hospital where time of death was put at 2 am on December 1st, seven hours after John Lyons discovered him on the beach.

The Somerton Man's Possessions & Autopsy

A full autopsy was performed on December 2nd, but no cause of death was established. It was determined that his pupils were smaller than normal and his spleen was three times larger than normal. His liver was filled with congested blood. His calves and feet resembled those of a ballet dancer.

The man's last meal was a pasty. Multiple tests of blood and organ tissue failed to find any source of the poison originally believed to be the cause of death.

The man's identity could not be determined from the autopsy.

The items in Somerton Man's possession were equally notable for what was found as for what wasn't.

The Somerton Man's suitcase and personal effects.

Investigators found two combs, some matches, a pack of chewing gum, and a pack of Army Club brand cigarettes. Seven of the cigarettes had been replaced by a pricier brand called Kensitas. He had tickets from Adelaide to the beach, explaining how he arrived.

There was no cash or coin, no wallet, no form of ID.

The pocket had been repaired with orange thread yet all of the brand labels had been removed from his clothing.

Fingerprints of the Somerton Man were taken and circulated around the world, but no one could identify the man definitively.

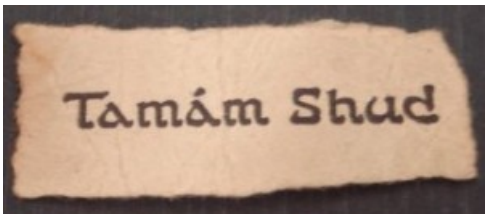
The Suitcase and the Scrap of Paper

On January 12th, 1949, South Australia police discovered a suitcase that belonged to the Somerton Man at the Adelaide rail station. It had been in the station's possession since November 30th.

Once again, the Somerton Man's possessions led to more questions than answers. Police discovered the orange thread used to darn the pocket. They discovered a stencil kit used to stencil cargo before shipment. There was a table knife with the handle altered. There was a feather stitched jacket determined to be American in origin.

The suitcase bore no stickers or tags. The labels had been removed from all but three pieces of clothing. The labels left read "Kean" and "T. Keane", but these clues led to Somerton Man's identity.

A second search of Somerton Man's possessions in April 1949 by John Cleland led to the most famous clue in the case. John Cleland's investigation found a scrap of tightly rolled paper inside a small watch fob packet in Somerton Man's pants. The original investigation had overlooked the fob pocket.



Police photo of the scrap of paper found among the Somerton Man's belongings.

Cleland opened up the piece of paper and discovered two words: Tamam Shad. In English, "It is ended." These are the last words of the English version of *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.* Khayyam's rubiayat's had become popular in Australia during World War II with copies being produced throughout the country.

The police took this clue to mean this was a suicide, rather than a murder. An official murder investigation was never opened. Instead, this was treated as a missing person's investigation.

The *Rubaiyat*

The case took a new turn when a copy of the *Rubaiyat* was brought to the Adelaide police on July 23rd, 1949. A man brought the book into the station, claiming that it had been in his car. The book had been found in the backseat by the man's brother-in-law during a drive in December and was placed in the car's glove compartment.

When the man opened the book, he found the last page missing. Prompted by a newspaper article, he brought the book to the police where Detective Sergeant (D.S.) Lionel Leane took possession of it.

In the back of the book, D.S. Leane found a phone number penciled into the cover. There were some capital letters pressed into the cover as well, but the police had a new lead in the case.

The phone number was unlisted but belonged to a nurse nicknamed Jestyn. Her name was never publicly released by the police. She lived a block away from where Somerton Man's body was found on the beach.

Jestyn was an unwed mother of a 2-year-old named Robin in 1949, though she was living with her future husband at the time. She admitted to giving a copy of the *Rubaiyat* to a man named Alfred Boxall during World War II as a gift.

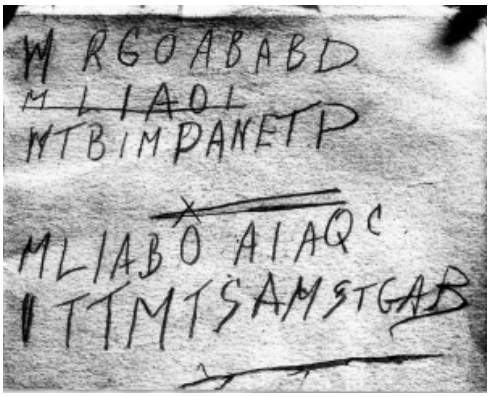
Police initially believed that Boxall would turn out to be the Somerton Man, but he was quite alive when they arrived to speak with him. He presented the police with his copy of the *Rubaiyat,* completely intact with Jestyn's inscription to him.

Police brought Jestyn in a year later, in 1950, to question her again. She had no recollection of any phone call with Somerton Man. She was shown photos of the Somerton Man. D.S. Leade's notes state that she was "completely taken back, to the point of giving the appearance that she was about to faint."

Despite her reaction to the photos, Jestyn denied that she knew the man.

The exact copy of the Somerton Man's *Rubiayat* has never been located.

The Code



The most tantalizing clue in this case is the code D.S. Leane discovered in the back of the book in capital letters. The code was released to the public, sparking a flurry of amateur codebreakers. Naval Intelligence in Australia attempted to break the code as well, but without success.

The code was determined to read:

WRGOABABD

~~MLIAOI~~

WTBIMPANETP

MLIABOAIAQC

ITTMTSAMSTGAB

However, the Australian Navy determined in the 1950s that the code is unbreakable due to the limited sample size. They believed the code to be in English and the letters to represent the first letter of a word.

Attempts in the last few years by Derek Abbott, a professor of Electrical & Electronic Engineering at the University of Adelaide, using computers to decipher the code have been limited by the processing power of a single computer. A single attempt to search for phrases using 5 letters, MLIAB, took over 18 hours to generate a single result.

Professor Abbot has reached out to Google for permission to access their information directly, but Google has refused as of publication.

The Prevailing Theories

There are two prevailing theories regarding the fate of the Somerton Man.

Theory 1: The Somerton Man was the father of Jestyn's son, Robin. This theory is based on rare genetic similarities between the Somerton Man and Robin, such as the shape of the teeth and the ears. DNA testing has shown that Robin has American relatives.

The theory suggests that Jestyn, unwed at the time, had a child with the Somerton Man. She kept the father a secret when she met her future husband. She then told the Somerton Man that she could no longer allow him to see his child. Devastated, the Somerton Man took his own life using an exotic poison that was undiscovered in the original testing.

Theory 2: The Somerton Man was a spy working for another nation. The code in the book is believed to be a secret message for his spymaster. However, Somerton Man was caught and poisoned by the cigarettes he was smoking.

Since the man was a spy, no nation has come forward to claim him as their agent, even after all this time.

Both theories have their merits, but without more evidence, the identity of the Somerton Man will remain unknown.

Skye Vitiritti is a writer of historical fiction and horror novels. Her latest work, My Eternal Crusade: Jerusalem 1183, comes out on March 1, 2017. You can follow her on Twitter @TheWriterSkye or on her website, www.skyevitiritti.com

Sources:

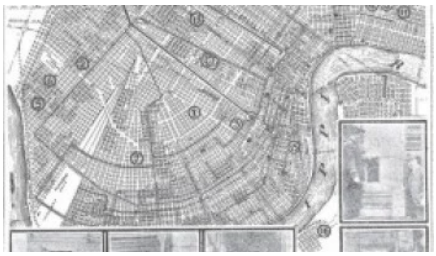
Balint, R. (2010) *The Somerton Man: An Unsolved History.* Retrieved from http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/csrj/article/view/1520

Dash, M. (2011, August 12) *The Body on Somerton Beach.* Retrieved from http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-body-on-somerton-beach-50795611/

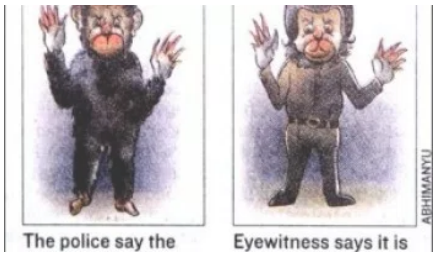
Zyga, L. (2015, June 2) *After years of forencis investigation, Somerton Man's identity remains a mystery (Part 1: History and Code).* Retrieved from https://phys.org/news/2015-06-years-forensic-somerton-identity-mystery.html

Zyga, L. (2015, June 3) *After years of forencis investigation, Somerton Man's identity remains a mystery (Part 2: DNA, isotopes, and autopsy).* Retrieved from https://phys.org/news/2015-06-years-forensic-somerton-identity-mystery_1.html

Related



When Hell Came to Earth: The Axeman of New Orleans
In "Criminals, Killers, and Scam Artists"



The Monkey Man of Delhi
In "Mysteries and Strange Occurrences"

The Strange Life and Mysterious Death of the Mad King, Ludwig II of Bavaria
In "Historical Figures"

This entry was posted in Criminals, Killers, and Scam Artists, Mysteries and Strange Occurrences and tagged Tamum Shud, the Rubaiyat, The Somerton Man, unsolved deaths on February 12, 2017 [http://www.oddlyhistorical.com/2017/02/12/somerton-man-australias-baffling-unsolved-case/] by Andrew Kincaid.

The 'Spiderman' burglar who took $100m worth of art from Paris museum

thelocal.fr

AFP
30 January 2017
10:28 CET+01:00

A burglar known as "Spiderman", notorious for daring acrobatic heists, goes on trial Monday for the 2010 theft of a $100-million haul that included works by Picasso and Matisse from a Paris gallery.

Vjeran Tomic, 49, who is facing 14 charges, will stand trial along with two accomplices charged with handling stolen goods.

The three were charged over the May 2010 robbery at the Modern Art Museum of five paintings by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Ferdinand Leger and Amedeo Modigliani.

On May 19, 2010, a thief cut through a padlocked gate and broke a window to get into the gallery, one of the most-visited museums in Paris on the leafy banks of the Seine, in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

The museum's alarms had been awaiting repair for several weeks and the thief somehow managed to knock out a security camera.

Three guards were on duty that night, but the paintings were only found to be missing from their frames just as the museum prepared to open to the public the next day.

When police arrested the Serb in May 2011, Tomic told them he had initially broken into the museum for Leger's "Still Life with Candlestick" from 1922, not thinking he would also be able to steal another four.

Besides the Leger canvas, the other works stolen were Picasso's cubist "Dove with Green Peas" from 1912 -- worth an estimated €25 million ($26.8 million) alone -- French contemporary Matisse's "Pastoral" from 1905, Braque's "Olive Tree near Estaque" from 1906, and Modigliani's "Woman with a Fan" from 1919.

All but the Modigliani were hung in the same room in the museum, located in the well-heeled 16th district of Paris, which is run by the city and is home to more than 8,000 works of 20th-century art.

Tomic said he took them all because he "liked" the paintings.

Authorities put the total value of the haul at €100 million ($107 million), but some experts said they were worth twice that, while admitting it would be totally impossible to sell them on the open market.

French police arrested Tomic after receiving an anonymous tip. Surveillance cameras from the night of the heist recorded only one person entering through a window but the person could not be

identified.

Where are paintings?

Tomic, an athletic 1.90 metre (6 foot 2) rock climbing enthusiast, earned his nickname for clambering into posh Parisian apartments and museums alike, to steal valuable gems and works of art.

Authorities said he was spotted by a homeless man as he roamed around the museum in the days leading to the theft.

And they say Tomic's mobile phone or that of one of his accomplices showed a signal coming from that area during the heist.

They trailed the signal to a Paris metro station then to a car park in the city centre. Authorities believe that is where he may have sold the paintings to a first dealer.

A second dealer claimed he held on to the paintings for a short time before he dumped them in a garbage can, which authorities do not believe.

International police body Interpol put out an alert to its 188 member countries in the hope of recovering the five paintings, but so far they all remain missing.

There has been a spate of art thefts in Europe in recent years.

The most recent, in 2015, involved the theft of five paintings worth €25 million by renowned British artist Francis Bacon in Madrid.

Spanish police arrested seven people last year suspected of being involved in the theft.

The Local Europe AB
Östgötagatan 12
116 25 Stockholm
Sweden

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Israeli Spider-Man's demonstration ends with roof-breaking fail

upi.com

By Ben Hooper | Jan. 12, 2017 at 6:05 PM

This Spider-Man in Israel is about to learn that superheroes and overconfidence don't mix. Screenshot courtesy Newsflare

TEL AVIV, Israel, Jan. 12 (UPI) -- An Israeli "Spider-Man" showed he doesn't quite possess all the skills of his namesake when an attempted demonstration caused him to fall through a roof.

The video, filmed on New Year's Day in Tel Aviv, shows a man in a Spider-Man costume emulating the superhero by climbing on a wall.

Spidey makes his way, carefully, from a wall to a nearby building, where he pulls himself up to the roof.

The wall-crawler, clearly pleased with his skills, shows off for the crowd by dancing across the tiles of the roof -- until the surface gives way under him.

Spider-Man then plunges through the hole, eliciting laughter and shouts of concern from the crowd.

Copyright © 2017 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Stockholmers hunt killer badger after hipster cat attack

thelocal.se

Not the badger in question – or is it? Photo: Henrik Montgomery/TT

The Local
21 September 2016
11:49 CEST+02:00

Residents of Stockholm's hipster island Södermalm have declared war on a local badger after it attacked and killed a beloved neighbourhood cat.

The feline in question was Nisse, who had lived on the street Metargatan for 14 years, according to the original report in Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter.

Residents would take turns at looking after and feeding him, so when Nisse was heard meowing loudly during the late hours of one September night, a local quickly rushed to the rescue.

When the person arrived at the scene they saw a badger running down the street. It had bitten the cat in the neck.

Locals claim that badger numbers in the area have grown, and are asking the local municipality to deal with the problem. But Stockholm council's wildlife officers insist that there has been no increase in the badger population in Sweden's capital.

Sweden's Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket) – the government agency which produces guidance on wild animals – also played down the event.

"It's very rare for this to happen, the two animals usually avoid each other," the agency's wildlife management department told The Local.

"In fact, it's so rare that there's really no specific advice cat-owners should follow," they added.

Regardless, the badger could soon become a badger brush for grooming all of those beards on Södermalm, Stockholm's hipster area. The municipality will now attempt to trap and kill the animal culpable for the cat attack, something that has led to a number of sarcastic comments from Swedes who read the story.

"Killer-badger bites a vegan cat from Söder to death – now it must die!" wrote one on Twitter. "Sweden's Harambe," added another.

Whether the badger will gain the fame of the aforementioned martyr gorilla, who met his fate at Cincinnati Zoo earlier this year, remains to be seen. They'll have to catch it first.

Incredibly, this isn't the first piece of breaking badger news in Sweden this year. In August a man was asked to leave a branch of McDonald's in Falköping after he walked in with a dead badger under his arm.

In 2015 meanwhile, a luxury hotel in central Stockholm came under siege from one of the angry animals, who refused to allow guests in or out of the building.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

How to stop brain cancer—with rabies

By Meredith Wadman Feb. 10, 2017

sciencemag.org

Current Issue Cover

Scientists are trying to tap into the ability of the rabies virus (left) to enter nerve cells.

By Matt BloisFeb. 10, 2017 , 5:15 PM

A ruthless killer may soon help brain cancer patients. The rabies virus, which kills tens of thousands of people a year, has a rare ability to enter nerve cells and use them as a conduit to infect brain tissue. Now, scientists are trying to mimic this strategy to ferry tumor-killing nanoparticles into brain tumors. So far the approach has been shown to work only in mice. If successful in people, these nanoparticles could one day help doctors send treatment directly to tumors without harming healthy cells.

The rabies virus, transmitted largely through the bites of infected animals, has evolved over thousands of years to hijack nerve cells, which it uses to climb from infected muscle tissue into the brain. That allows it to bypass a major hurdle: the blood-brain barrier, a selective membrane that keeps out most pathogens that travel through the bloodstream. But the barrier also prevents treatments—like cancer drugs—from reaching infected cells, limiting options for patients.

To get around this problem, scientists are looking to the virus for inspiration. Already, researchers have packaged cancer-fighting drugs into nanoparticles coated with part of a rabies surface protein that lets the virus slip into the central nervous system. Now, a team of researchers from Sungkyunkwan University in Suwon, South Korea, has taken things one step further. Nanoparticle expert Yu Seok Youn and his team have engineered gold particles so that they have the same rodlike shape and size as the virus. The nanoparticle's shape gives it more surface area than spherical particles, improving the surface protein's ability to bind with receptors on nerve cells that serve as a gateway to the nervous system. The particles don't carry any drugs, but the tiny gold rods readily absorb laser light, which heats them up and kills surrounding tissue.

To see whether these new particles could be effective against tumors, Youn and his team first injected them into the tail veins of four mice with brain tumors. The nanoparticles quickly traveled to the brain, where they accumulated near the tumor sites. The team then fired a near infrared laser at the nanoparticles, heating them to nearly 50°C. The light harmlessly passed through skin and bone, but heat from the gold particles radiated outward, effectively cooking nearby cancer cells. The treatment greatly reduced the size of the tumors, Youn and his colleagues report this month in Advanced Materials. In another experiment, the researchers used the same treatment on mice with tumor cells that had been injected into their flanks. Tumors on two of the mice disappeared after 7 days, whereas the other tumors shrank to about half their original size.

Still uncertain is just how the nanoparticles reached the tumor cells. Youn says they likely traveled the same path as the rabies virus—through the central nervous system. That would make the nanoparticles good candidates for treating other cancers "located on the route," he says.

But not everyone is convinced. Rachael Sirianni, a drug delivery scientist at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, questions whether the nanoparticles actually made it inside the tumor cells. It

normally takes a long time for the rabies virus to traverse the central nervous system, whereas Youn's nanoparticles made it to tumor cells in a matter of hours. They could still be effective at suppressing tumors, but they might lead to other, unwanted side effects. "The ideal scenario is [that] only the tumor cells take up these gold nanorods," Sirianni says. "In reality … you're probably getting these rods to vascular cells, between vascular cells, and [only] some of them to the tumor." Leakage outside the tumor cells would mean that the heated particles could potentially fry healthy cells in the process.

Another worry, according to Feng Chen, a materials scientist at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, is toxicity. Large nanoparticles like these often end up in the liver and take a long time to clear out. That could make it more challenging to get the therapy ready for human trials and Food and Drug Administration approval, Chen says.

But Youn is pressing forward. He says that the new nanoparticles accumulate preferentially in tumors, which could drastically reduce the side effects of current cancer treatments that usually kill healthy cells along with the targeted cancer cells. "Researchers need to develop … nanoparticles, precisely and effectively to target tumors," he says. "That's my obligation."

DOI: 10.1126/science.aal0741

Matt Blois

© 2017 American Association for the Advancement of Science. All rights Reserved. AAAS is a partner of HINARI, AGORA, OARE, PatientInform, CHORUS, CLOCKSS, CrossRef and COUNTER.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Students find secret 'cave' hidden under their rented house

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukMonday 16 Jan 2017 7:39 am

Daniella Gray, Stephanie Bennett and Ria Champaneri in the cave they found under their student flat (Picture: NTI)

A group of students were stunned when they found a 200-year-old secret ‘cave’ hidden beneath the cellar of their rented terraced house.

They made the incredible discovery after workmen who were installing new emergency lighting left a door unlocked on the ground floor.

The students went down to explore the cellar before they found a door leading to another set of stairs which took them to the 6ft by 4ft cave below.

Experts confirmed the surprising discovery dated back to the 19th century and was probably used as a domestic cellar in the 1800s.

One of the students who found the cave said the group were spooked when they first went down the stairs at their terraced house in Sherwood, Nottingham.

Stephanie said they called in experts who said they weren’t previously aware of the cave (Picture: NTI)

Stephanie Bennett, 20, who is studying broadcast journalism at Nottingham Trent University, added: ‘It’s not a big cave, it’s about six foot by four foot. It was quite exciting but we all had to go down together because we were all afraid of what we might have found.

‘We’d like to keep it open because it’s quite cool having a cave. We don’t know what we’re going to do with it yet and we haven’t had any parties down there yet.’

The students contacted archaeologists, who said the cave was previously unknown to experts and was created around 200 years ago.

Nottingham City Council acting archaeologist Scott Lomax, who confirmed the discovery, said: ‘The cave appears to be a domestic cellar which is contemporary with the building above, so it is 19th century in date.

‘It is a good example of this type of cave. Although small in size, it is interesting in providing further details about the use of caves in the city.

It measured 6ft by 4ft (Picture: NTI)

‘It has rock cut thralls (benches) on all four sides which would have been used as shelves to store food and/or drink on. There is also a rock-cut recessed shelf for storage.’

Nottingham is largely built on sandstone, which is very soft and easy to excavate but safe enough to support buildings.

The city has more than 700 caves from the 18th and 19th centuries but the earliest have been dated back to as early as 1250.

The cave at the students’ house will now be recorded on an official database which is used to conduct further research.

Mr Lomax added: ‘As with many of Nottingham’s known caves you can still see the pickaxe marks from when the cave was first carved, which offers a greater connection to the past.

‘The stone on which much of Nottingham is built is so soft that it enabled these caves to be formed.

‘There are other cellar caves which are very similar to the one on Mansfield Road and they are all important parts of the city’s heritage because they help us understand the growth and development of the city and the social status of the people who lived here in the past.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Fox News Anchor Sues Hasbro Over Toy Hamster With Her Name

consumerist.com

CONSUMERIST

Consumerist

By Laura Northrup@lnorthrupSeptember 2, 2015

harris_faulkner_is_not_a_hamster

Harris Faulkner, an anchor on the Fox News cable network, is a human and has been on TV for decades. Yet the toy company Hasbro sells a tiny plastic hamster as part of its Littlest Pet Shop line which is named Harris Faulkner. How did the hamster get its name? Is it intended to insult or honor Ms. Faulkner, or just a very strange coincidence? She has sued the company for $5 million, either way.

Sure, I would love if someone named a toy hamster after me, but not without my permission. Faulkner may not have anything against hamsters, but her lawsuit says that the company "willfully and wrongfully appropriated Faulkner's unique and valuable name and distinctive persona for its own financial gain." The letters (TM) appear after the name Harris Faulkner on the toy's package, which implies that the journalist's name has been trademarked by Hasbro.

She also happens to have daughters who are six and eight years old, which is the target market for Littlest Pet Shop toys. The lawsuit is happening because she complained about the toy back in January, and Hasbro didn't respond. The suit describes the existence of this doll as "distressing," since she believes that the hamster doll "bear[s] a physical resemblance to Faulkner's traditional professional appearance," including her skin tone, eye shape, and the design of the animal's eye "makeup."

"Further," the complaint says, "Hasbro's portrayal of Faulkner as a rodent is demeaning and insulting." Not just a rodent, but an officially licensed plastic rodent: Faulkner doesn't endorse or license products, believing that's inappropriate for a journalist.

We noticed that the toy is no longer on the Littlest Pet Shop site, and also isn't in stock online at Diapers.com or Target, but it isn't clear whether that's due to the lawsuit or the toy has been rotated out of the current lineup of Littlest Pet Shop characters.

In a statement to Entertainment Weekly, Hasbro declined to comment on the lawsuit about the resemblance of the hamster to Ms. Faulkner, but over her allegation that the toy is unsafe, and that a child could potentially choke on a rodent with her name on it. Hasbro sent a statement to Entertainment Weekly:

> While we generally do not comment on litigation matters, it is critically important to correct a false statement made by Ms. Harris in the complaint regarding the safety of the product. The Littlest Pet Shop product identified, and all products in the Littlest Pet Shop line, meet and exceed all safety standards.

Fox News anchor Harris Faulkner sues Hasbro over same-named toy hamster [Deadline Hollywood]

Founded in 2005, Consumerist is an independent source of consumer news and information published by Consumer Media LLC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of Consumer Reports.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Paul McCartney's magpies and other very strange celebrity superstitions

By Hannah Hope 20:18, 28 DEC 2016 Updated 20:33, 28 DEC 2016 News mirror.co.uk

After Olympic champ Laura Trott admitted her odd ritual, we reveal who are the most superstitious celebs

Olympic cyclist Laura Trott has revealed an odd ritual – she must step on a wet towel in her socks before a race.

She's not alone when it comes to good luck charms and beliefs.

But which sports star or celebrity is the most superstitious?

Serial sufferers

Tennis ace Serena Williams , 35, who has been crowned Wimbledon champion seven times, swears by several pre-match rites. The American admits: "It's annoying. It's like I have to do it and if I don't then I'll lose. And I'm not losing because I didn't play well, I lost because I didn't tie my shoe the right way and it's totally ridiculous because I have to use the same shower, I have to use the same sandals, I have to travel with the same bags."

It sounds like hard work.

Footballer John Terry has also had trouble remembering all of the superstitions he has to adhere to before a big game.

The 36-year-old Chelsea player says: "I started off with a couple of superstitions and because we did so well, kept winning and winning, I ended up with about 50 of them. Then it was a case of remembering them for every game. I always have to park my car in the same spot and when I drove in at lunchtime before the game, the space was taken and I was unsettled."

Birds of pray

Beatles legend Paul McCartney takes the well-known magpie One for Sorrow rhyme to heart.

"Probably the only thing I'm superstitious about is magpies," he admits. "Living in the country I see a lot of them. You see one and you spit or salute. I happen to spit.

"I love it when you see two for joy. I don't shoot or catch them like a lot of people. They're not supposed to be good for other songbirds and a lot of keen gardeners don't like them, but I do. I've got lots. To me, it's double joy or triple joy. I'm very inspired on a spring morning if I see a crowd of eight."

Makes sense from the writer of Blackbird.

Animal magic

An old wives' tale passed on by his grandmother means Hollywood actor James McAvoy , 37, finds himself spouting gibberish at strangers on a monthly basis.

He says: “On the first of every month I have to say ‘white rabbit’ to the first person I see. My grandmother taught me that. It’s good luck.”

While a black moggie can ruin rapper Missy Elliott ’s entire day. The 45-year-old rapper admits: “If a black cat walks in my path, I will immediately turn around and go home, even if I am on my way - somewhere.”

How inconvenient.

Food for thought

You wouldn’t be able to tell by looking at her svelte figure, but US pop star Ariana Grande used to stuff herself full of cake as a child in the hope of landing an acting role. The 23-year-old star admits: “I used to eat donuts for good luck before auditions when I was little.”

Great excuse.

Lucky undies

It’s the luck of the Irish all the way for Castleknock-born actor Colin Farrell , 40. The Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them star confesses: “I wear shamrock shorts for luck on the first day of filming any movie. I don’t wear them to the discos and the clubs. I’ve worn the same pair for about seven films.”

Former F1 racing driver turned presenter David Coulthard also relied on lucky underpants early on in his career.

He said: “They were bought for me by my Auntie Elaine and I wore them to the point of destruction.

“When I had an accident and they cut my overalls away, I had these pale blue boxer shorts on – or what was left of them – and I was sticking out all over the place.”

Still, he survived to tell the tale.

And ex-Hollyoaks heart-throb Ricky Whittle insists his special superhero pants helped him foxtrot his way to the Strictly Come Dancing finals back in 2009.

The 34-year-old actor, who was runner-up to TV presenter Chris Hollins, revealed: “Every week I wore my Superman pants with a large S on the front for luck. I used to be a footballer and I’m superstitious about things like that.”

Hopefully he washed them in between waltzes.

Good vibe garments

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair wore the same pair of brogues for 18 years at Prime Minister’s Questions, admitting: “I know it’s ridiculous.”

Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler wears his racoon-tooth necklace for good luck.” The 68-year-old singer has a happy history with racoons - adopting one as a boy. He adds: “I put him on my shoulder and went fishing with him every day.”

Golf superstar Tiger Woods, meanwhile, has a fixation with the colour red. “I’ve worn a red shirt on my last day of each tournament since I was eight.”

Another fan of the colour is Bridget Jones’ Baby star Patrick Dempsey. The 50-year-old actor says: “I have to have red shoes no matter what. They’re my lucky racing shoes.”

Power of nature

Dame Judi Dench fears the potency of innocent-looking bunch of blooms. The actress, 82, confesses: “I’ve always felt uneasy carrying real flowers on stage. It’s very unlucky. I suppose that’s because if the heads drop off you go flying and break your leg.”

Actress Julie Walters was nominated for an Oscar for her role in Billy Elliott in 2000 and at risk of dirtying the red carpet with her good luck charm. She says: “At the Oscars I had a lump of coal in my bag. It’s a working-class good luck thing. My lovely Jimmy Choo bag is all covered in black.”

Lucky numbers

It may be unlucky for some, but singer Taylor Swift swears by the number 13.

The superstar, 27, explains: “I was born on the 13th. I turned 13 on Friday the 13th. My first album went gold in 13 weeks. My first No 1 song had a 13-second intro. Every time I’ve won an award I’ve been seated in either the 13th seat, the 13th row, the 13th section or row M, which is the 13th letter.”

True Blood actor Ryan Kwanten, 40, is fastidious when it comes to odd numbers.

He says: “I’ve always loved odd numbers so I have to set volumes at odd numbers. It’s odd, just like me."

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Suspect returns stolen mortuary van after finding body

yahoo.com

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A man was arrested after police say he stole a van from a Southern California mortuary with a dead body inside, returned it and then stole a different van from the same business.

Riverside Police Officer Ryan Railsback says a mortuary employee was nearly run over as he tried to stop the man as he drove away the second time Sunday.

Railsback says an officer investigating the theft of the first van chased the second van for more than two miles. The suspect was arrested and could face charges including vehicle theft. Police didn't immediately release his name.

The Riverside Press-Enterprise newspaper reports Monday (http://bit.ly/2lD0O1h) that stealing a dead body isn't included in his list of charges because police believe he didn't mean to steal it.

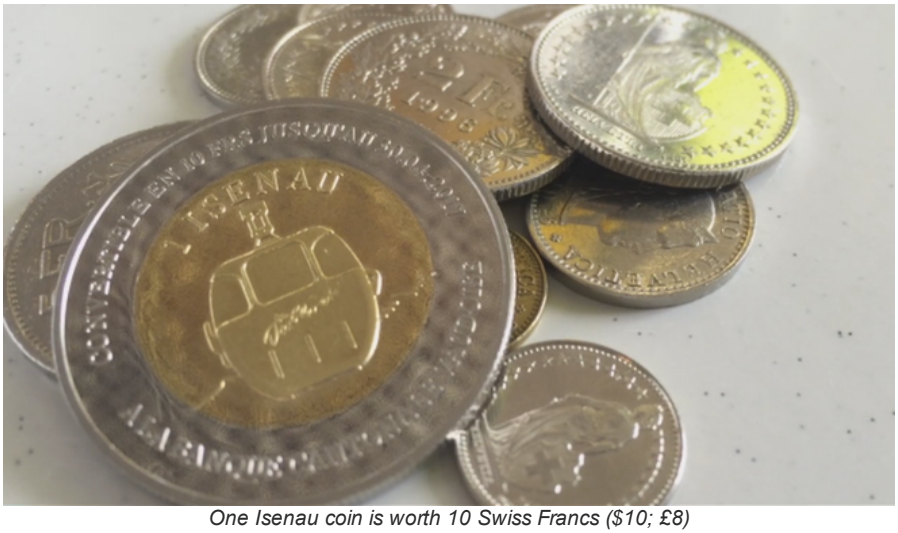
/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Swiss ski village cashes in with temporary currency - BBC News

bbc.com

By News from Elsewhere... ...as found by BBC Monitoring

- 30 January 2017



One Isenau coin is worth 10 Swiss Francs ($10; £8)

Image copyrightSwissinfo.ch

A Swiss village has launched its own temporary currency in order to boost the local economy and finance a new cable car, which residents say is essential for the area's future.

Fifty-thousand coins have been released into local circulation in the ski resort of Les Diablerets, each engraved with an image of the existing cable car's gondola-style cabins, Swissinfo.ch reports. The currency has been named the Isenau, after the ski area above the village that's reached by the ageing lift.

It's an initiative launched by the Foundation for the Defence of Isenau's Interests, which hopes it will raise 250,000 Swiss Francs to help fund the cable car project. The coins will only be in use for a limited time, though; they were first released in December and will be valid in local shops and restaurants until the end of April.

It's part of a long-term battle to keep the Isenau ski area going after a loss of funding from the regional authorities, the website explains. Foundation member Jean-Marie Schlaubitz says the ski area is "economically vital for the community" as it helps to fill the local hotel and sustain a ski school. He says the temporary currency is galvanising residents, particularly young people who "have realised they need to invest energy to save their future".

Alternative currencies are also popping up in other Swiss communities that want to keep money circulating locally. But while it's tolerated in some countries - including the UK - others clamp down on such attempts. In 2015, a Russian man was taken to court for creating a currency called the kolion. He said it was for use among local farmers and had no inflation risk because the rate was fixed at five kolions for a bucket of potatoes.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Taco Bell is going national with fried chicken taco shell

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 11, 2017

FILE - This Friday, May 23, 2014, file photo, shows the sign at a Taco Bell in Mount Lebanon, Pa. Taco Bell announced plans on Jan. 11, 2017, to go nationwide with its Naked Chicken Chalupa, a taco with a shell made out of fried chicken. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File)

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Taco Bell plans to go nationwide this month with its latest concoction: a taco with a shell made entirely out of fried chicken.

Taco Bell says the shell of the Naked Chicken Chalupa is made up of all-white seasoned chicken. The rest of the taco is packed with lettuce, tomatoes, cheddar cheese and avocado ranch sauce.

The fast food chain says the taco tested well in markets in Bakersfield, California, and Kansas City, Missouri, over the past two years.

It will be available at Taco Bells across the country on Jan. 26.

Related: 'Jimmy Kimmel Live' Introduces Technology to Burritos in Taco Bell Parody

Watch TV shows, movies and more on Yahoo View, available now on iOS and Android.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Taiwanese celebrate the world's most dangerous fireworks festival

yahoo.com

Taiwanese celebrate the world's most dangerous fireworks festival

Yahoo News Photo StaffFebruary 12, 2017

The Yanshui Beehive Fireworks Festival, held on the 15th day after the beginning of the Lunar New Year in Tainan City, Taiwan, is an annual tradition that has been celebrated for more than 130 years.

Participants in Yanshui District gear up with motorcycle helmets, fire-retardant clothing and thick gloves to prepare for the hundreds of thousands of firecrackers that go off at the same time.

According to Taiwan's Tourism Bureau, the "beehive fireworks" festival started in 1885 as a request to the gods to spare Yanshui from a cholera outbreak, which was making its way through the villages.

Future generations followed this tradition, and this year, 40 beehive firecrackers were placed around the city, each firing 600,000 shots, as the Taiwanese believe the "baptism of fireworks" gets rid of calamity and troubles while bringing good fortune in the new year. (Getty Images)

Photography by Billy H.C. Kwok/Getty Images

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Thomas Edison Talked to the Dead, Almost

huffingtonpost.com

12/28/2016 01:12 pm ET | **Updated** 1 hour ago
Marc Hartzman Author, Creative Director, Weird Historian

In October of 1920, Thomas Alva Edison announced that he was working on a new machine that would allow people to talk to the dead. Naturally, people were optimistic.

After all, this was the man who, decades earlier, figured out a way to record and playback the human voice. At the time, such a thing seemed completely magical. If the Wizard of Menlo Park could create the phonograph, why not a telephone to the afterlife?

Spiritualism had grown in popularity following the mass casualties of World War I, not unlike the mania that spread following the Civil War. The demand to speak with lost loved ones was high, and mediums eager to supply hope sprouted up wherever there was a buck to be made. Séance tables across the country were rapped and levitated, ectoplasm spewed from mediums, planchettes spelled out messages on ouija boards and many other effects led enthusiastic spiritualists to believe that communication with the afterlife was possible.

Adding to the excitement were staunch believers Sir Conan Arthur Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, and English physicist Sir Oliver Lodge. Both wrote extensively on spiritualism, with Doyle having been firmly convinced he'd spoken with his deceased son.

If Edison was going to talk to the dead, it was going to be done through science. As he told B.C. Forbes of *American Magazine* in 1920, "The methods and apparatus commonly used and discussed are just a lot of unscientific nonsense."

Why, he wondered, would any personality in the afterlife bother communicating in such prankish and primitive ways?

Edison didn't offer Forbes specific details of how his device would work, but he explained, "I am proceeding on the theory that, in the very nature of things, the degrees of material or physical power possessed by those in the next life must be extremely slight; and that, therefore, any instrument designed to communicate with us must be super-delicate—as finely responsive as human ingenuity can make it.

"For my part, I am inclined to believe that our personality hereafter will be able to affect matter. If this reasoning be correct, then if we can evolve an instrument so delicate as to be affected, or moved or manipulated,—whichever term you want to use—by our personality, as it survives in the next life, such an instrument, when made available, ought to record something."

He added that, should he succeed, the first spirits to take advantage of the device would likely be telegraphers or scientists or anyone else with experience in the use of delicate instruments and electric currents.

Was Edison making a joke? Was he merely looking to grab headlines during the Spiritualism craze?

Many believed this was the case, but a 1933 article in *Modern Mechanix* magazine reported on a secret demonstration in his darkened laboratory with several scientists present. According to the article, "Edison set up a photo-electric cell. A tiny pencil of light, coming from a powerful lamp, bored

through the darkness and struck the active surface of this cell, where it was transformed instantly into a feeble electric current. Any object, no matter how thin, transparent or small, would cause a registration on the cell if it cut through the beam."

The team of scientists spent hours closely watching Edison's prototype for any sign of movement from beyond. But none came.

Still, Edison maintained his belief that some form of afterlife may exist. Months after the 1920 article, the inventor added to his theories on what constitutes life in an interview with the *New York Times*. Edison explained that he believed the human body to be composed of 100,000,000,000,000 (that's 100 trillion) infinitely small life units. Each being beyond microscopic, and beyond what the human mind can conceive.

"I believe that life, like matter, is indestructible," Edison said. "There has always been a certain amount of life in this world, and there will always be the same amount. You cannot create life; you cannot destroy life; you cannot multiply life.

"I believe our bodies are composed of myriads and myriads of infinitesimal entities, each in itself a unit of life, which band together to build a man.

"In our bodies these entities constantly rebuild our tissues to replace those which are constantly wearing out. They watch after functions of the various organs, just as the engineers in a power house see that the machinery is kept in perfect order. Once conditions in the body become unsatisfactory in the body, either through a fatal sickness, fatal accident or old age, the entities simply depart from the body and leave little more than an empty structure behind. Being indefatigable workers, they naturally seek something else to do. They either enter into the body of another man or even start work on some other form of life. At any rate, there is a fixed number of these, and it is the same entities that have served over and over again."

In the final chapter of the posthumously published *The Diary and Sundry Observations of Thomas Alva Edison*, the great scientist expanded on his thoughts, and even postulated that human life is alien in its origin. "I cannot believe for a moment that life in the first instance originated on this insignificant little ball which we call the Earth—little, that is, in contrast with other bodies which inhabit space," Edison wrote. "The particles which combined to evolve living creatures on this planet of ours probably came from some other body elsewhere in the universe."

Edison died in October of 1931, having never completed his spirit phone. Sadly, this meant he couldn't call in new inventions, which he surely would be working on if possible. He said it himself four years earlier after a reporter asked how he'd spend his afterlife, answering with a smile, "Experimenting."

Read more from Marc Hartzman at WeirdHistorian.com. And for more on the final chapter of The Diary and Sundry Observations of Thomas Alva Edison, click here.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Florida woman accused of throwing tampon at police officer

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 26, 2017

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — A Florida woman has been charged after police say she hit an officer with a tampon.

Local news outlets report that 28-year-old Tacora Fields was arrested and charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer.

A police report says Fields was involved in a fight when a St. Petersburg police officer responded.

Police say Fields threatened to hit the officer with her tampon. Authorities say Fields then removed the feminine hygiene product and threw it at the officer, hitting him in the shoulder.

Police say Fields tried to flee the scene, but the officer used a stun gun on her and she was taken into custody. It's unclear if she has an attorney.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

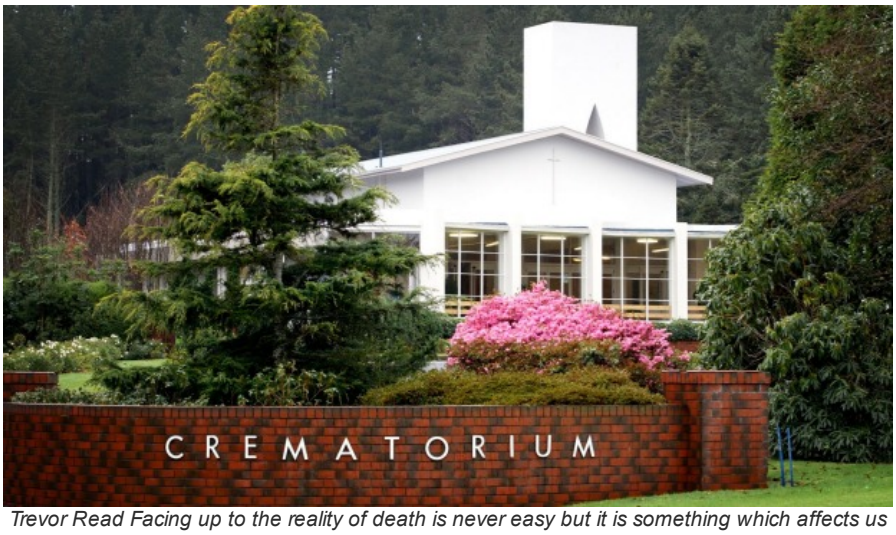
A behind the scenes look at the Taranaki's hottest ticket, the crematorium

stuff.co.nz

DEENA COSTER

Last updated 08:20, January 10 2017

Mark Dwyer Kids at a previous crematorium open day took a look at the conveyor belt that moves a coffin along at the crematorium.



Trevor Read Facing up to the reality of death is never easy but it is something which affects us all.

Mark Taylor Part of the Taranaki crematorium.

The weight of the dead woman's ashes was a surprise.

Encased in a brown paper bag, the remains would have been no more than about three kilograms.

It was a weird feeling to hold the last traces of one woman's life in my hands. And also hard to believe that this was all that was left over.

Last year, she had been reduced to a pile of pearly white ash and carefully scraped out of the bottom of one of the two machines on site at the Taranaki Crematorium before being packaged up.

The idea of cremation had never appealed to me. It has always been my plan to be buried and laid to rest in the cemetery of my hometown when I die.

Cremation always seemed so impersonal and to be honest, scary. Being left in a small box to be consumed by fire? Um, no thank you.

However, understanding the cremation process and what happens at each stage provided me with a chance to take a more practical view of the option.

This week, I joined a dozen people who attended a walk through of the Taranaki Crematorium, which is on New Plymouth's Junction Rd.

The event is part of a series of tours promoted by the New Plymouth District Council, which runs until February 26.

Along with the crematorium, a behind the scenes look at Yarrow Stadium, the Colson Rd resource recovery facility as well as other guided walks are on offer to the general public.

Trevor Read About one person a day is cremated at the Taranaki crematorium.

The operation of the Taranaki Crematorium is not a complicated one but it is performed in a professional and respectful way.

After the body is lowered from the chapel's stage, it is placed into one of the incinerators.

Once the body has been completely consumed, the remains including pieces of bone, are collected up using a long rake and then put through a cremulator which grinds the bones up into ash.

The only items which survive the 1000-degree heat are things like surgical steel hip joints, plates and screws.

Since the first cremation at the site in May 1961, following the crematorium's construction, more than 21,200 people have been turned into ash.

On average, 365 people a year are cremated at the site, one body at a time.

Death is one of the things which scares us the most and is a subject people don't openly talk about it, even within their own families.

However it is something which touches us all so having an opportunity to talk openly about both the realities and practicalities of death can help break down the taboo.

The next behind the scenes tour of the Taranaki Crematorium will be held on February 2 and booking is essential.

For more information on this and the other walks visit www.newplymouthnz.com/guidedwalks.

- Stuff

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Tastes on a Plane

written by Monica Traphagan, copyright © 12 January 2017.

damninteresting.com

Consumption of tomato juice is unusually popular on commercial airline flights. For example, German airline Lufthansa estimates they serve about 53,000 gallons (about 200,000 liters) of the stuff a year, which is not too far off from the 59,000 gallons (223,000 liters) of beer they serve annually on their airplanes. Its popularity has something to do with the history of drink service on airplanes. When commercial flights began, alcohol was complimentary and therefore hugely popular. Because of the expense, airlines eventually began charging for booze, but the mixers remained available free of charge.

However, that's not the whole story. Studies in chambers that mimic airplane cabins in flight indicate there's a scientific reason for tomato juice's airborne popularity. The modern airplane cabin's combination of low pressure, loud engine noise, and desert-like humidity has an impact on a human's sense of taste. These factors dull humans' sensitivity to sweet and salty flavors by about 30%, but do not impact the umami flavors that are important to the taste of tomato juice. As a result, people consistently rate tomato juice as tasting better in conditions observed in an airplane than in conditions normally seen on the ground. These studies also found that sour, bitter, and spicy flavors are mostly unaffected.

The same effects that enhance the flavor of tomato juice seem to be partially to blame for airline food's infamous lack of appeal. In an effort to circumvent the phenomenon, some airlines conduct taste tests in simulated airplane cabins.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man slammed for drugging his Sphynx cat and covering it with gangster tattoos

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukFriday 3 Feb 2017 8:59 am

A man has been slammed by animal rights activists for covering his Sphynx cat with gangster tattoos (Picture: CEN)

A man has been slammed for drugging his Sphynx cat and covering it in gangster tattoos.

The man, known only as Aleksandr, tattooed his pet himself in the city of Yekaterinburg in Russia's Sverdlovsk Oblast region.

But he has now been condemned by animal rights activists after leaving his virtually hairless cat, which he calls Demon, with four major tattoos on its sides and chest.

Aleksandr, who has 10 tattoos on his own body, said that he had to give Demon an anaesthetic so that he could stand the pain of the ink needle and admitted that he might not have been doing the right thing.

The cat has been named Demon (Picture: CEN)

He said: 'Of course I feel pity for doing it to him. It's not like he wanted to do it himself. He has a different skin, so tattoos are applied differently.

'I hope it is not too bad for him, it is not his first tattoo. Usually he feels fine and recovers from the anaesthesia pretty fast.'

The tattoos that Aleksandr chose for Demon are ones usually worn by criminals in Russia, including representations of a prison tower, a pretty woman and a cigarette.

They are often used to denote the seniority of the member of a criminal gang, how long they have served in prison and the seriousness of their crimes.

Aleksandr, the owner of the tattooed cat, has 10 tattoos on his own body (Picture: CEN)

Animal activist Yelizaveta Skorynina condemned Aleksandr for putting Demon through the pain of the ordeal for no reason other than his own vanity.

She said that the skin of Sphynx cats was extremely sensitive and that giving the pet an anaesthetic was also an unnecessary risk.

Ms Skorynina added: ‘The drug turns off the movement of the cat, but the brain is still working. If he does it frequently, it could affect its heart.’

However, another local tattooist, Aleksandr Purtov, defended his actions, saying that what he had done was no worse than a farmer branding his livestock.

He said: ‘It is an old practice, this is why I am neutral to it.’

Sphynx cats were developed through selective breeding and are known for their lack of fur but are not completely hairless.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Teen Edits Band's Wikipedia Page To Bluff His Way Into VIP Area

huffingtonpost.com

02/15/2017 05:01 am ET | **Updated** 9 hours ago
Lee Moran Trends Editor, The Huffington Post

This teenager got seriously creative to get a better view at a music concert.

Adam Boyd said he bluffed his way into the VIP area at the Albert Hall in Manchester, northern England, on Friday night after editing The Sherlocks' Wikipedia page on his cell phone to say he was the lead singer's cousin.

He then showed the switched-up entry to a security guard, who let him slide into the roped-off section without issue.

"I couldn't believe that he'd actually let me in," Boyd told The Huffington Post on Wednesday. "I was expecting someone to drag me out and ban me from the venue. But no, I was given free access to all the VIP section."

Boyd shared images of his escapade to Facebook the following day, and the post is now going viral.

Some commenters have suggested Boyd exaggerated the incident, but he insisted it was "100 percent" the truth. Mashable also notes how his name was indeed added to the page at 8:28 p.m. Friday night.

Wikipedia

Boyd isn't the first person to pull such a stunt. Peking Duk superfan David Spargo did pretty much the same back in 2015 to get backstage.

And Boyd probably won't be the last, as he himself revealed how people were now contacting him to say they planned on repeating the trick elsewhere.

The teen did describe the amount of publicity his stunt had generated as "pretty overwhelming," however. "I only posted this with the intention of entertaining the usual 40 people that like my statuses and thing I'm funny," he said. "I could have not anticipated anything quite the scale of this."

Even the members of The Sherlocks were impressed. "Fair play to the lad, we found it very funny and he put some good thought into it," the band told HuffPost via email. "Even funnier that his plan worked. Good effort!"

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Feedback Wednesday, Dec 28th 2016 4PM 60°F 7PM 53°F 5-Day Forecast

Daily Mail .com

Home | U.K. News Sports | U.S. Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Columnists

Latest Headlines News World News Arts Headlines Pictures Most read News Board Wires Login

Mob justice: Teenager is brutally beaten and paraded naked with three chickens around his neck after stealing the birds in Nigeria

- **Locals in Ikorodu, Lagos State, dished out their own brand of instant 'justice'**
- **The teenage boy was believed to have stolen chickens from the market**
- **Locals laughed and jeered at the teen as he was marched around**
- **WARNING: Distressing images**

By SARAH DEAN FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 06:28 EST, 28 December 2016 | **UPDATED:** 06:53 EST, 28 December 2016

A light-fingered teenager has found himself beaten and stripped naked after he was caught stealing chickens.

Rather than call the police, locals in Ikorodu, Lagos State, **Nigeria**, dished out their own brand of instant 'justice'.

After he was seized by the chickens' owner, the suspect was beaten senseless.

Disturbing images of the boy show him with a swollen and bloodied left eye.

Site Web Enter your search

FEMAIL TODAY

Carrie Fisher's mother Debbie Reynolds, 84, is 'rushed to hospital with possible stroke' day after daughter dies from heart attack
911 was called

Kelly Bensimon, 48, slips into yet another eye-catching bikini as she enjoys seemingly endless vacation
The gold suit looked a size too small

'Standing about in my underpants!': Kate Beckinsale, 43, makes fun of herself for posing in next-to-nothing for Shape magazine shoot
Sharing a video

Aloha mama! Jessica Alba highlights her assets in sexy one-piece swimsuit on family vacation in Hawaii
Showed off her eye-popping backside

EXCLUSIVE: Prince Harry's pub drinks with his 'second father' as girlfriend Meghan Markle wraps up against freezing temperatures an ocean away

Carrie, 60, had rough relationship with mom Debbie Reynolds, 84, but 'they became close'... as icon 'suffers stroke' day after Fisher's death

High drama! Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills star 'to be forced to come clean about her addiction issues' in new season
Who will confess all?

'I've got curves and cellulite': Ashley Graham strips NAKED as she coaches contestants during nude

A crowd gathered to watch the suspected thief paraded around by the chickens' owner and local leaders

shoot on America's Next Top Model

Inside George Michael's restored 16th Century country cottage where the pop star was found dead on Christmas Day
The Wham! singer

BREAKING NEWS: JonBenét Ramsey's brother files $750million lawsuit against CBS for cold case special that accused him of killing his pageant queen sister

The ladies love him! Justin Bieber is followed by bikini-clad fans while hitting the beach in pink shorts for Caribbean vacation
Singer in Barbados

'First big sled!' Pregnant Bristol Palin and her husband Dakota Meyer give son Tripp a snowmobile for his 8th birthday - nine months after her father's sledding accident

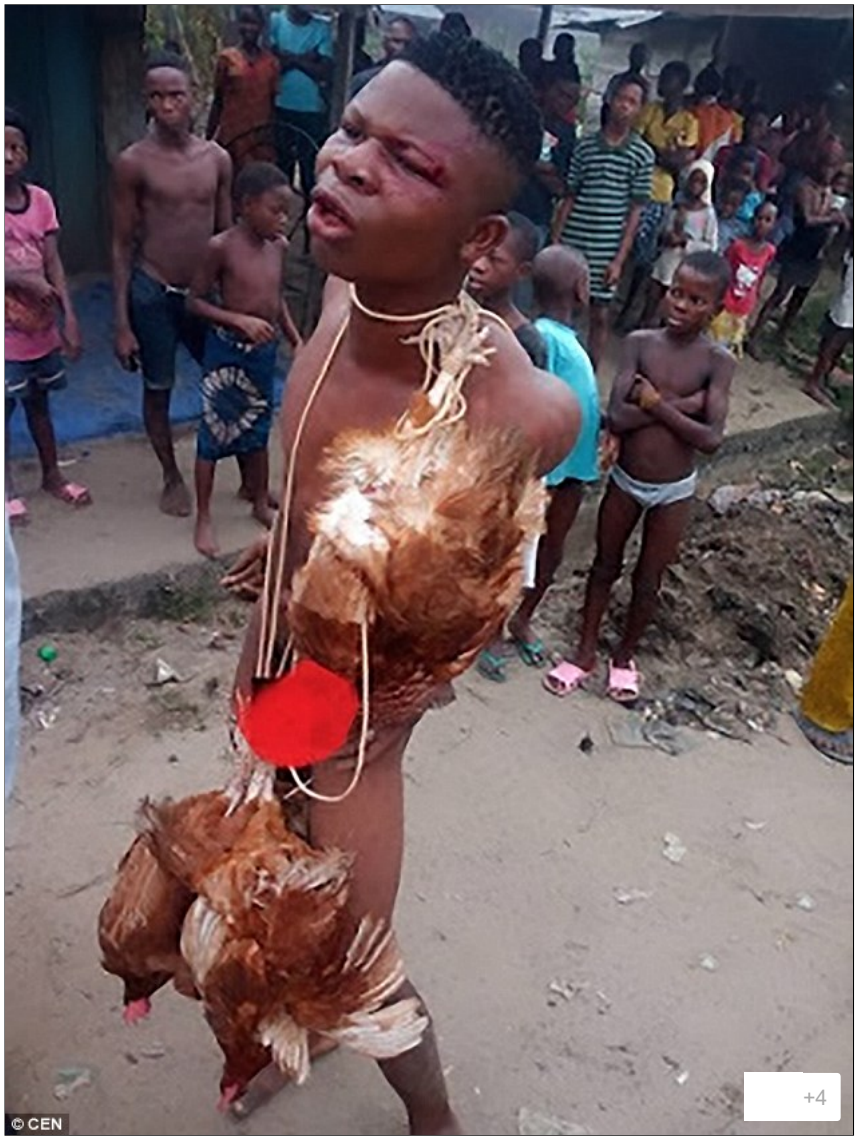
Kourtney Kardashian hangs out with Paris Hilton in Aspen after Kim Kardashian mended fences with the socialite... and Scott Disick is there too

Fan's last photo with Carrie Fisher takes the internet by storm as he reveals the late star only agreed to take the selfie if he 'promised to tell everyone we're dating'

Fans create Carrie Fisher star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame by pasting the words 'may the force be with you always' to vacant star

Steve Martin shamed into deleting Carrie Fisher tribute tweet after critics called it sexist
Fisher died after suffering a heart attack on a flight to LA

Emotional video shows Cam Newton surprising terminally ill 10-year-old boy whose dying wish was to meet the NFL great



His face was bloodied after he was beaten and stripped naked for his alleged crime

Then he was forced to parade with three chickens tied around his neck.

Locals laughed and jeered at the teen as he was marched around the market by the chickens' owner and local leaders to punish him.

RELATED ARTICLES

Woman, 30, beheaded in Afghanistan for entering a city to go...

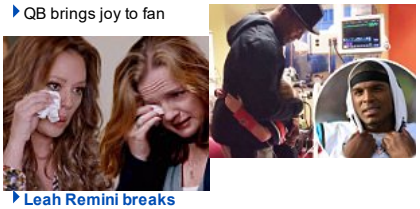
Partygoers arrested in Saudi Arabia after they were filmed...

Public justice is a common form of punishment in Nigeria where locals can be suspicious of police or official involvement.

Officials are often seen as corrupt and easily bribed and ordinary people prefer street level self-administered justice.

The man's name was not revealed and it is unclear if he was handed over to the police after the mob had finished with him.

QB brings joy to fan



Leah Remini breaks down in tears as she hears couple's tale of 'forced abortion' in Scientology And The Aftermath
Emotional interview

Strut into 2017 in style (and comfort)! Why YOU should ditch your sky high stilettos this New Year's Eve in favor of flats a la Karlie Kloss, Olivia Palermo and Emma Roberts

Sherlock star Amanda Abbington spotted 'getting close to actor Jonjo O'Neill' after Martin Freeman split... as she shares post on 'surviving' her relationship

Johnny Manziel gets ready for New Years with all-night bender in Miami
Traveled from Texas to Florida and documented entire trip on Snapchat

Talk about gym-spiration! Supermodel Doutzen Kroes shows off ripped abs and a toned physique as she models her own workout wear

Make-up magic for Muggles! Harry Potter cosmetic mania continues with a SORTING HAT bath bomb and an eyeliner shaped like a QUILL and INK

'There were bikinis all round!' Margot Robbie enjoyed a 'raucous' pool party at a lavish $2,000-a-night villa after her secret Byron Bay wedding

From Jack Black's cheating girlfriend to Jude Law's adorable daughters, where are the cast of the classic festive film The Holiday now?

Red hot! Izabel Goulart shows beau Kevin Trapp all's fair in love and war as she smashes a beach paddle ball at him while wearing a fiery bikini

The suspected thief was photographed as the locals punished him for stealing chickens

Anger on Princess Di's favorite paradise island as residents oppose $250m plans by Robert De Niro to expand the K Club where she took William and Harry

Justin Bieber's ex Chantel Jeffries looks sensational as she shows off her bikini body in sun-drenched snap
Jaw-dropping image

Who killed Kim Cattrall? Sex And The City actress offends British side of her family after her name appears on a gravestone at family plot - despite her being very much alive

Bombshell in Barbados! Rihanna sizzles in floral dress as she heads to dinner after unfollowing Jennifer Lopez amid Drake romance rumors

Jennifer Lopez, 47, and Drake, 30, appear to confirm their relationship as they BOTH share smitten pic... after ex Rihanna unfollows love rival

Share or comment on this article

64
shares

MOST WATCHED NEWS VIDEOS

Embed this </>

George Michael gives Oprah a tour of his

Cars crash into each other on the A40 due

Cam Newton makes Christmas wish come

Self-driving car predicts horrific crash

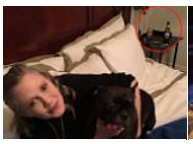
Prankster uses dangerous Texas

What a bummer: Girls 'bum pads' fall out on

Tears of joy? Emotional moment boy

Hero dog saves his injured 'girlfriend' on

MOST READ NEWS


Carrie Fisher 'relapsed' before

'How could they let him drink and

Health curse of the middle aged: 80%

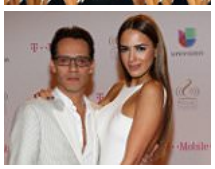
'Our simple life': Meet the couple

How brutal

This should be the death knell for the tainted honours: SARAH VINE says it is beyond perverse that Victoria Beckham is being recognized

Nicolas Cage 'is worried that playing Ronald Reagan in a flattering light in upcoming movie could damage his career'
Offered the role

Rockette says no minorities have signed up to perform at Trump's inauguration and claims dancing for president will cause women 'trauma'



'Irretrievably broken!' Marc Anthony files for divorce from wife number four Shannon de Lima
The 48-year-old singer quietly calls it quits

Comments (58)

Share what you think

Add your comment

Newest | Oldest | Best rated | Worst rated

View all

The comments below have been moderated in advance.

Ex-Pat Portugal, Not Cardiff, United Kingdom, about 9 hours ago

Poor chickens.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 690 50

Jock, Tavira, Portugal, about 9 hours ago

Lucky boy. In the 1970/80s they caught a thief and put a tyre around him and pored a gallon of petrol on him and set him alight. It got so bad the governor of Lagos state had to go on TV and ask the locals to hand thieves to the police not burn them.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 532 20

ganjman19, lowestoft, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

" own brand of instant justice" Lol.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 198 20

Punk in Drublic, Radcliffe, about 10 hours ago

He's lucky. I've seen videos from Africa of thieves being lynched, beaten to death with rocks or set on fire.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 502 10

DeplorableLatina, Centreville, United States, about 10 hours ago

He is lucky sharia law wasn't implemented.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 396 38

Katey, Glasgow, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

A bit over the top.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 74 226

Dave, Spain, about 10 hours ago

"Officials corrupt and easily bribed" couldn't happen in the uk

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 130 36

salubrious1, London, United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

He got off lightly, normally they put a tyre round the thief's neck and set them alight.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 304 8

femi_emmanuel, Lagos, Nigeria, about 10 hours ago

This is sad, we should have gone past this kind of inhumane activities by now. smh

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 148 152

REMO, London., United Kingdom, about 10 hours ago

Probably a better deterrent than probation or community service.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 442 14

View all

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

Add your comment

Enter your comment

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

Clear Submit Comment

Who is this week's top commenter? Find out now

MORE TOP STORIES

Gwyneth Paltrow hopes she has 'contributed something positive to the culture of divorce' and says her ex Chris Martin would still 'take a bullet' for her

Ivanka Trump proudly shares a picture of her five-year-old daughter Arabella playing in the ocean during the family's Hawaiian vacation

Shrinking stars! From Khloe Kardashian to Melissa McCarthy, the most impressive celebrity weight loss transformations of 2016 (and how they did it)

'He keeps calling me!' British singer Sinitta insists her newly-single ex-boyfriend Brad Pitt wants to reignite their love... and admits that 'he's a very good kisser'

Baby's first ski trip! Nicky Hilton gives a glimpse of daughter Lily during family holiday to Aspen with sister Paris
She welcomed daughter Lily Grace on July 8

'Got more a than the models': Amy Schumer shares a selfie while wearing silky white lingerie**
The 35-year-old actress took to her Instagram

What a gent! John Stamos, 53, pulls out all the stops on dinner date with girlfriend Caitlin McHugh, 32
The pair looked smitten on romantic night out

With her mini me! Makeup-free Christina Milian wears 'official hangover sweater' as she takes a stroll with daughter Violet
Matching boots.

She's trouble! Hilary Duff wears statement baseball jacket as she leaves the gym in Beverly Hills
She added Nike leggings and footwear

As a cringe-worthy Instagram account highlights the worst over-plucked eyebrow moments ever, we round up the best celebrity brow transformations

Caribbean queen! Busty Victoria Silvstedt displays her stunning physique in monochrome two-piece as she hits the beach in St. Barts

Carrie Fisher's mother Debbie Reynolds, 84, is 'rushed to hospital with possible stroke' day after daughter dies from heart attack

Debbie Reynolds. 84, was taken from her son Todd's Beverly Hills home on Wednesday with a reported stroke. The actress was planning her...

293 comments **3** videos

JonBenét Ramsey's brother sues CBS for $750million over cold case special that accused him of killing his pageant queen sister

Burke Ramsey filed a $750million lawsuit against CBS, a production company and seven consultants on Wednesday in Michigan court.

296 comments **2** videos

How to EAT your way to success: Millionaire businessman reveals the diets of the world's rich and powerful (so start avoiding coffee and...

Tim Ferriss, who is worth $20 million, has interviewed 200 successful people for his new book, Tools of Titans. Many of them put their...

184 comments **1** video

Kerry tells Israel to stop the settlements or face being 'Jewish or democratic but NOT both' - to fury of Netanyahu who storms: 'We don't...

John Kerry and Benjamin Netanyahu are locked in conflict after the outgoing Secretary of State called for an end to settlements, warning...

406 comments **2** videos

Trump unloads on United Nations members after stunning anti-Israel vote as he says 'they cause problems' and are 'not living up' to...

'The UN has such tremendous potential. Not living up to its potential,' Trump said in a brief statement to the press. 'There is such...

4 comments

Animated kids movie Sing is accused of racism because its gorilla characters are criminals who like hip hop and are sent to prison

SPOILER ALERT: Despite the criticism on social media, moviegoers appear to be embracing the film Sing at the box office, as it has grossed...

2 comments **1** video

Career criminal who 'murdered' Step Up actress in DC tells police she killed HERSELF after the pair had sex in her car

Adrian Duane Johnson, the man charged with killing actress Tricia McCauley, has told police the 46-year-old committed suicide after the pair...

- **Dapper duo! Nikki Reed and husband Ian Somerhalder are fashionable pair as they enjoy a winter's stroll** They headed out in Santa Monica, California
- **A time to give back! Kris Jenner donates 100 warm meals for homeless people in LA** Reality mom did something incredibly generous with her family
- **Tiffany Trump posts childhood picture of herself in the snow while soaking up the sun in Mar-a-Lago, as boyfriend Ross hits the slopes in Aspen**
- **Brooklyn Beckham 'reconnects' with ex-girlfriend Sonia Ben Ammar on social media as they BOTH holiday in The Maldives... where they first met in 2014**
- **'I have just started becoming really rude and drawn into myself': Jennifer Lawrence reveals why she won't say yes to a fan's selfie request**
- **Scarlett Johansson is number one on Forbes' highest grossing actors of 2016 list with Chris Evans and Robert Downey Jr coming in second**
- **Gordon Ramsay and his brood get into the festive spirit as they pose in matching Christmas pyjamas on the beach during Maldives break**
- **Carrie Fisher was planning sequel to her one-woman show Wishful Drinking before fatal cardiac arrest** And she'd given it a hysterical name
- **Prosecutor in Aaron Hernandez's double murder trial says former New England Patriot got tattoos of guns and bullets to commemorate each killing**
- **Carrie Fisher's daughter Billie Lourd receives condolences from Scream Queens co-stars after her mother's death at 60** Paying tribute

8 comments **3** videos

Army colonel sobs in court as he's sentenced to 12 years in child pornography case

A colonel who once headed the U.S. Army's strategic war gaming division sobbed and apologized Wednesday before being sentenced to 12 years...

13 comments

Men reveal the REAL reasons they honk at women as they drive past (and their excuses for catcalling will fill you with rage)

Male Reddit users took to the site to explain why they catcalled women. One user wanted to know what they hoped to achieve by honking their...

972 comments **1** video

'This picture says white supremacy has won': Critics accuse black actor of 'colorism' in Christmas photo which has his darkest female friend...

Lance Gross, who is best known for his role on the TBS sitcom Tyler Perry's House of Payne, lashed out at 'ignorant' critics on social media...

33 comments **1** video

Kylie Jenner treats herself to fries at drive-through with beau Tyga ... after sparking fan backlash with 'obviously photoshopped' snap of her derriere

What a Transformer-ation! Mark Wahlberg debuts new haircut as he joins stunning wife Rhea Durham on family holiday in Barbados
Stripping off

Supergirl's Melissa Benoist files for divorce from Glee's Blake Jenner
She also asked the court to eliminate her Jenner legal surname

EXCLUSIVE: George Michael's manager didn't know he was gay as he wrestled with his sexuality during 1988 tour - but singer was taunted by homophobes

She was UK bound! Carrie Fisher 'bought a home in London and was set to start a new life there' before dying at age 60 from heart attack
The Star Wars actress

Louis Tomlinson 'is supported by Liam Payne' as he pays his final respects to late mother Johannah Deakin at private funeral service

The picture that proves the feud is over! Paris Hilton poses with former frenemy Kim as she shares snap from Kardashian Christmas party

'I fell for more than one woman': Nick Viall dishes on his quest for love on The Bachelor... and reveals what he looks for in a woman
Who will he choose?

'Mom and baby are great!' Bachelor Alums Jesse Csincsak and wife Ann Lueders welcome a third child and give him a sweet sentimental name

The belted coat, lace dress and THOSE nude court shoes: The proof that the Duchess of Cambridge sticks to just six staple wardrobe essentials

Time with her pops! Mindy Kaling takes father Avu to LA Lakers vs Utah Jazz basketball game where they land VIP seats
It was a fun night out

Doutzen Kroes shows off her pert posterior in a cheeky 'belfie' as she enjoys a tropical festive break with her husband and kids

Kim Kardashian's sex tape ex Ray J 'set to join' British TV's Celebrity Big Brother as bosses hope he'll tell all about their tryst
Producers are in talks

Carrie Fisher 'relapsed' before European tour that ended in her death: Friend claims actress was 'high as a kite' over Thanksgiving but pressed ahead

David Tennant and Olivia Colman star in tense first teaser trailer for series 3 of Broadchurch
Brief clip released of hit drama's new season

How Carrie Fisher's brutal wit and very public battles with drinking, drugs, men and mental health turned her into the princess everyone loved

New York Knicks president Phil Jackson and Lakers president Jeanie Buss end their engagement
Split is revealed on Twitter

She's a beach babe! Nicole Kidman parades her long legs in a bikini as she joins husband Keith Urban and sister Antonia for a swim in Sydney

'Mommy is gone': Carrie Fisher's dog Gary 'tweets' heartbreaking response to star's death... as it's revealed actress' daughter Billie will get custody of pooch

'Taking my baby for a walk': Victoria Beckham shares cute clip of Harper pushing her doll in a pram during their Maldives getaway

Queen Latifah's $160,000 Mercedes Benz stolen in Atlanta by gas station thieves
Her 2015 Mercedes Benz S63 was stolen on December 20

Jake Gyllenhaal goes shirtless as he enjoys sun-soaked holiday in St. Barths with long-time pal Greta Caruso
The duo basked in the waves

Primped and preened! Caitlyn Jenner shows off her glossy locks and slim pins in a black miniskirt as she heads out for morning coffee

Kim Kardashian's eyebrows and the Duchess of Cambridge's hair are revealed as two of the most iconic beauty looks of all time

No dad bod here! 'Father-to-be' Bradley Cooper works up a sweat as he goes jogging during romantic break with girlfriend Irina Shayk

There's a Storm brewing! Tallia shows off her toned figure in a sporty black bikini as she tops up her tan in Barbados
Pop princess

'I just want everyone to be happy!': Kanye West shares well wishes as he exits LA gym... after posting rare photo with Kim, North and Saint
Rapper seemed relaxed

Short shorts! Blonde beauty Natalie Roser looks flawless as model shows off her trim pins in Daisy Dukes
Partying all day Down Under

'Ski bunnies!': Madonna shares a cute chairlift selfie with children Mercy, 10 and David, 11, as they enjoy a wintry break on the slopes

Winter warmer! Smitten Hilaria and Alec Baldwin pucker up in a steamy snap.... after star revealed her teen eating disorder battle
Still smitten

Chrissy Teigen looks stylish in stripes as she touches down in Miami with baby girl Luna and husband John Legend for his 38th birthday getaway

Victoria's Secret model Cami Morrone flaunts her ample cleavage in lacy black lingerie as she saucily recreates Blade Runner for LOVE's Video Advent

Sir Elton John, Mariah Carey and Bob Geldof are among superstars 'planning a George Michael memorial concert'
Special tribute show

'There's no discussion of a separation': Kim Kardashian and Kanye West 'defiant they ARE still a couple'... after he confirms attendance at Kris' party

Piste not war! Paris Hilton hits the slopes in Aspen after making up with former frenemy Kim Kardashian
Looked ready to carve up the mountain

Why so bashful? Kristen Stewart and underwear model 'girlfriend' Stella Maxwell hide their faces as they leave drug star in Hollywood

Will Carrie Fisher be in future Star Wars films? Disney bosses to decide whether they will use computer technology to insert star into franchise after her death

Shirtless Justin Bieber shows off his muscle-bound physique as he hits the beach in Barbados with his brother
Not a care in the world

Barbara Becker shares a smooch with her handsome new beau as they put on an affectionate display together
Shopping trip in Miami.

'Unfathomable loss': Carrie Fisher's half-sisters Joely and Tricia express their heartbreak over star's death
Very moving message.

'This empty house seems to get colder and colder': Fan rush to comfort George Michael's boyfriend after he shares poignant 'lost' song online

From David Bowie to Carrie Fisher: How 2016 has taken away dozens of beloved stars with many dying at a young age
Forever in our hearts

Adele is named Billboard's Top Artist of the Year for the third time after conquering the charts with 25
25 dominated the charts for much of the year

'I've always been sane about being insane': How Carrie Fisher inspired mental health sufferers by opening up over her own struggles with illness

EXCLUSIVE: Ex-beau accused of violent bust-up with 'Catwoman' Jocelyn Wildenstein turns to transgender model Lauren Foster for support

EXCLUSIVE 'She is delighted and humbled': Victoria Beckham to be made OBE for services to fashion and charity work
Honored by the Queen

Size 14 Swedish teenager who won Scandinavia's Top Model lands her first magazine cover after the show features ONLY plus-size women

Paris Jackson gives boyfriend Michael Snoddy a dramatic buzz cut as she shaves his purple mohawk off on Snapchat
Nice new 'do

Thirsty work! Home And Away star Pia Miller flaunts taut torso as she cools down with a glass of rosé...as temperatures soar in Sydney

Puppy love! Blac Chyna uses Snapchat's dog filters for playful photoshoot with baby Dream
The former stripper played with filters

Cruz-ing through the waves! Beckham, 11, shows off his wake boarding skills during Maldives family getaway
Aspiring singer, 11, makes a splash

He used to say he would die young: George Michael's cousin reveals how the superstar predicted his own early death when he was just 20

Teresa Palmer shares adorable photo of her newborn son being cradled by his big brother
Hacksaw Ridge star sleeps with her kids

Vanessa Hudgens looks leggy in thigh-high boots and a cream mini-dress as she enjoys a double date night with BFF Ashley Tisdale

American Horror Story actress Lily Rabe expecting baby with boyfriend Hamish Linklater
Finally, a happy Hollywood story

'I'm devastated': Star Wars actress Daisy Ridley pays tribute to co-star Carrie Fisher as she calls her death a 'monumental loss'
One heroine to another

George Michael 'turned his back on America' due to his 'lewd' 1998 arrest and dispute with Sony
He reportedly felt mistreated

'I am not a piece of meat': Ariana Grande shocked and 'hurt' after fan sexually objectifies her in front of boyfriend Mac Miller
Twitter post controversy

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus to reportedly spend New Year in Australia... as their wedding plans are underway
Arrive in 'next few days'.

'They should sue us': Leah Remini welcomes lawsuit from Scientology over her critical A&E docuseries
She'd welcome a lawsuit over her A&E series

She's got some muscle! Miley Cyrus almost spills out of her tank top as she masters challenging yoga pose in latest Instagram photo
Showing off her moves

'Just be careful': Erika Girardi gives newcomer Dorit Kemsley ominous advice as Pantygate erupts on RHOBH
The reality star issued a stern warning to Dorit

Missed the joke? Olivia Newton-John's daughter Chloe Lattanzi pokes fun at her 'weird laughing face' while posing in tiny crop top... but her mother-in-law doesn't look impressed

Iconic Hairspray director John Waters, 70, lands in hospital following bout with kidney stones
Missed his annual party

Zsa Zsa Gabor suffered a heart attack after falling into a coma according to the actress's death certificate

Brooklyn Beckham shows off his athletic prowess by leaping into the sea
Teen performs a daredevil back flip on Maldives vacation

Going for bronze! Pasty-faced Bella Thorne covers up in hooded top and trousers as she heads to tanning salon
Dressed down

Burning off those Christmas calories! Hunky Scott Eastwood and Charlotte McKinney hit the gym together in Los Angeles
Workout time

Making others green with envy! Mother-of-six Antonia Kidman, 46, flaunts her toned figure in a cut-out swimsuit as she joins sister Nicole at the beach

Death of a Hollywood princess: Carrie Fisher had superstar parents who split up over Liz Taylor, an affair with Harrison Ford and years of drug abuse.. no movie could match her drama

Who is Fadi Fawaz? Details emerge about the late George Michael's Australian lover
Fawaz found his boyfriend's body

Zsa Zsa Gabor's adopted son Oliver dies after getting in motorcycle accident that took place on the exact same day the icon passed away at 99

'How could they let him drink and smoke himself to death?' George Michael's family in bitter feud over his death - as some say they only found out from the news

Tameka 'Tiny' Cottle files for divorce from rapper Clifford 'T.I.' Harris after six years of marriage
According to legal documents

She's one in a million! Cindy Crawford's lookalike daughter Kaia Gerber, 15, celebrates impressive social media milestone with an oceanside snap

Love at first take: Carrie Fisher's Star Wars audition tape reveals her instant chemistry with Harrison Ford - before they became huge stars

That looks tasty! Alessandra Ambrosio stuns in skimpy bikini top as she scoffs ice cream on beach in Brazil
The model has been soaking up the sun

Thunderbirds are go! Kourtney Kardashian takes grandmother MJ for a ride in her festive red classic motor
She is the proud new owner of a 1950s era Ford Thunderbird

He WAS there! Kanye West takes to Twitter to share photo from the Kardashian Christmas Eve party alongside Kim, North and Saint
Proof he wasn't banned

Swimsuit-clad Ricki Lake takes a dip in the ocean during Mexican holiday
The 48-year-old Daytime Emmy winner opted for a one-piece

George Michael 'will be buried beside his mother' at family's private plot in Highgate Cemetery
He died on Christmas Day

Lady in red! Courtney Stodden dons mini-dress for lunch with mystery man in Beverly Hills
The 22-year-old reality star was all smiles

Chloë Sevigny lands a buyer soon after listing her Brooklyn apartment for $2.75million
The Big Love actress is moving on from co-op in Park Slope

Izabel Goulart shows fit figure in lavender bikini in St Barts while beau Kevin Trapp does same in mint trunks
The 32-year-old model showed her fit figure

ABS-olutely fabulous! Eva Longoria shows off her ample cleavage and sculpted frame in neon bikini during getaway
The 41-year-old knows how to rock a bikini

Rihanna unfollows Jennifer Lopez on social media as rumours swirl that J-Lo's dating her ex-boyfriend Drake
The Kiss It Better star struck J.Lo off her list

Keeping things fresh! Cameron Diaz and Benji Madden are side-by-side as they hit Beverly Hills grocery store
The couple was spotted at Bristol Farms market

Comedian Garry Shandling's death was caused by blood clot and he had oxycodone and hydrocodone in his system, according to autopsy report

Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher dies aged 60 four days after being rushed to the hospital when she suffered a massive heart attack on flight from London to LA

A sheer joy! Sofia Richie shows off toned legs in diaphanous white trousers while on holiday with Nicola Peltz
She showcased her enviably toned legs

Fork over the cash! Justin Bieber loses lawsuit over cancelled meet-and-greets as his legal troubles continue
Lost a lawsuit filed against him

Adele makes incognito trip to Whole Foods... as rumours swirl that she'll perform at Grammy Awards
She donned shades and a hat

A very wealthy wizard! Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe is now worth an eye-watering $78MILLION
The boy wizard has done good

'My hair was falling out': Alec Baldwin's wife Hilaria discusses her struggle with anorexia and bulimia in new fitness book
She's an author!

Now THAT'S planning! Daniel Craig goes shopping for wrapping paper on Boxing Day
See in New York, where he lives with actress wife Rachel Weisz

'There's no room for demons when you're self-possessed': Carrie Fisher's gift for hilarious quips shows she was so much more than just Princess Leia

Harry the globetrotter: From volunteering in Nepal to opening the Invictus Games in Florida, Prince is most-travelled senior royal of 2016

Move over Kim! Kylie Jenner shows off suspiciously larger bottom that rivals her sister's as she models jeans from Khloe Kardashian's competitor

X Factor boss Simon Cowell's company suffers $13.5million fall in profits as record sales plummet
He's known for his straight-talking

'She was a special, wonderful girl. It's too soon': Carrie Fisher's only husband Paul Simon, 75, breaks silence on shock death of his ex-wife

The twins are here! Kim Kardashian's makeup artist Joyce Bonelli announces birth of her sons with breastfeeding snap of the newborns

The Duke of hard work! Prince Philip, 95, puts the younger royals to shame and carried out TWICE as many engagements as the Duchess of Cambridge in 2016

She'll be back! Carrie Fisher had already filmed her scenes as Leia for Star Wars: VIII before her tragic death
Comforting news for grieving fans

George Michael's $120m fortune 'will go to Godchildren': Offspring of his celebrity friends could inherit tens of millions EACH after star died without heirs

Vanderpump Rules villain James Kennedy mourns the death of his godfather George Michael as it's claimed 'godchildren will inherit the singer's $120m fortune'

William and Kate look set to permanently swap Norfolk for Kensington Palace after putting Prince George's 'name down' at $8,000-a-term London school

Twinning! Kyle Richards, 47, could be sisters with her teen daughter as she shares a picture with her 'mini-me' in Aspen
The reality TV star

'She's mine and no one else's': Jude Law admits he couldn't be happier with girlfriend Phillipa Coan as he reflects on getting older in brooding shoot for Modern Luxury

Carrie Fisher's co-star George S Irving from 1973's Irene dies the day before she does at age 94... her mom Debbie Reynolds was also in the musical

'Our favorite princess': Adorable photos flood the Internet showing babies and children dressed as Princess Leia in tribute to Carrie Fisher who died age 60

Christmas in the snow: Jerry Seinfeld smiles for a fun photo with his wife and kids after they 'stopped fighting'
Comedian quips about holiday arguments

'I'm tired of getting picked on!' Kate Gosselin snaps at 16-year-old daughter Cara during family outing in preview of Kate Plus 8

White hot! Kelly Bensimon sizzles in teeny bikini as she soaks up the sun in Florida
Ex-RHONY star wows in a two-piece

Channel the Kardashian clan this New Year's Eve by dazzling in a sexy party dress from FEMAIL'S pick of ultra-chic, budget-friendly styles

Tom Arnold insists video exists showing Trump using C-word and N-word in 'Apprentice' taping - and now claims Hollywood conspiracy to cover up file

'I wanted to play Han Solo!' Carrie Fisher admitted Princess Leia wasn't her first choice in the Star Wars films as one of her last interviews is replayed

She really does have OCD! Khloe Kardashian shows how she sets up her sunglasses in new KHLO-C-D video
Glimpse on how she likes to organize

Ex-Survivor star Michael Skupin is sentenced to prison for possessing child porn after police discovered images of 'underage children' on his laptop

The incredible letter Frank Sinatra wrote George Michael advising him to 'loosen up' over fame
Pop star complained about the pitfalls of fame

'My Gran hasn't recognized me for seven years': Actress Carey Mulligan on why we should keep visiting family members with dementia

Naked ambition! Suki Waterhouse strips NUDE for artsy selfie... after it's revealed her debut pop single Brutally sold just 296 copies
She ditched her bikini

Catherine Zeta-Jones slips her slender figure into pink trousers as she gets ready to tee off with her new golf clubs
Michael Douglas's wife plays a round

'This is not paella, this is rice with things': Rob Schneider attracts the wrath of Spaniards on Twitter by posting his oven-cooked version of paella

Prince Harry's girl Meghan Markle works to sweat off that Christmas dinner with the help of her yoga instructor mother
Together in Toronto

Not long now! Jessa Duggar Seewald shares baby bump selfie at 34 weeks next to comparison snap of her pregnant with son Spurgeon

Now that's a dramatic introduction! New Bachelor promo shows the show's star Nick Viall getting slapped across the face by contestant

'I feel like a stranger in my own body': Plus-size model Tess Holliday candidly details her struggle to accept her postpartum body
Mom-of-two speaks out

'My Reign!': Khloe Kardashian plants a kiss on her adorable nephew in sweet snap from family Christmas bash
Couldn't get enough of Kourtney's two-year-old

'He became a recluse because he couldn't bear people to see him': 'Perfectionist' George Michael hated the way he looked after gaining weight

George Michael's family thank his fans for their love as a Range Rover parked outside the tragic star's home becomes memorial with well-wishers

Adriana Lima smolders as she goes makeup free in a tiny polka dot bikini on vacation with family in Brazil
Supermodel shares a stunning selfie

Here comes the sun! Shirtless Sir Paul McCartney, 74, and daughter Stella, 45, soak up some rays as they go for a Christmas Day dip in St Barts

Korean Air to give cabin crew TASERS after pop star Richard Marx had to help subdue a drunk passenger
Airline will also hire more flight attendants

Former RHOBH star Marisa Zanuck sells Beverly Hills pad for $1.8 million following split from husband
Got $100,000 over asking price

Flower girls! Reese Witherspoon has fun adding daisy garland filters to Snapchat selfies of herself and mini-me daughter Ava
Spending holidays together

George Michael's 'girlfriend' from Last Christmas video says she 'can't believe' his sudden death as she pays tribute at gates of his London home

PICTURE EXCLUSIVE Immy Waterhouse gives model sister Suki a run for her money in a skimpy white bikini as she hits the beach on Boxing Day in Barbados

Photography skills clearly don't run in the family! Terry Richardson shares his mom's VERY blurry portrait of himself, girlfriend Skinny and their twins

Ready for her closeup! Jessica Simpson shares a photo of her daughter Maxwell, four, wearing lipstick taken by grandpa Joe
Ready for her closeup

Gabrielle Union settles multimillion-dollar breach of contract lawsuit with BET over her series Being Mary Jane
Actress in pay dispute

Getting wiggy with it! Blac Chyna shows off her collection of hair pieces revealing her wigs have their own closet
Secret of stylish locks

Dunn in the sun! Jourdan displays her supermodel physique in a khaki bikini as she hits the beach in Barbados
Enjoying a well-earned break

Back to her workout routine! Makeup-free Drew Barrymore is already burning off those Christmas calories
Takes selfie at gym

Richard Adams who dreamed up children's classic Watership Down as he told bedtime stories to his children has died aged 96
Passed away peacefully

Hitting Disneyland! Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson make rare appearance with son Chet after he revealed he secretly welcomed baby in April
Family festive fun

'Good morning!': Sofia Vergara, 44, wows in cut-out bathing suit while on tropical holiday with husband Joe Manganiello and her family

It's another boy! The Hangover actor Zach Galifianakis and wife Quinn Lundberg welcome second son Rufus Emmanuel
They kept birth quiet

Busty Kim Kardashian dazzles in a low-cut gold dress as she parties with her glamorous sisters in new pictures from Christmas Eve bash

What a difference some lipstick can make! Kim Zolciak shares makeup-free photo after putting on Christmas party for her six kids
Zolciak was exhausted

The Trump card! Justin Bieber 'uses President-elect's argument to seal deposition in egging case'
If it is good enough for the soon-to-be POTUS...

Look away now, Zayn! Gigi Hadid beams with joy as she gets cozy with a handsome male model for new fashion campaign
Model's fun with hunk

'Auntie Paris' Hilton cradles adorable baby at family Christmas dinner
Socialite looks ready to be a mom herself as she poses for charming photo

Chrissy Teigen beams while catching flight with John Legend and baby Luna at Los Angeles International Airport
Luna stole the spotlight from parents

'That's insulting!' Katie Maloney stands up to Lisa Vanderpump after delivering 'summer' car on Bravo show
Monday's episode of Vanderpump Rules

Elsa Hosk flaunts her phenomenal figure in skimpy scarlet lingerie as she puts on a sizzling display for LOVE Advent video
Victoria's Secret Angel

'It's a Christmas miracle': Taylor Swift makes 96-year-old Second World War veteran fan's holiday season with private performance

Long-distance lovers: Courteney Cox cuddles up to fiancé Johnny McDaid as she jets from LA to London for a romantic airport reunion
Arm in arm at Heathrow

Sizzling Sofia! Vergara shows off her curvy figure in a VERY low cut swimsuit as she continues holiday with husband Joe Manganiello

Look away, Harry! Meghan Markle's Suits character accepts a romantic proposal before sharing a steamy kiss with her on-screen boyfriend

'This is all about emojis people': Ellen Pompeo fires back after receiving flak for using black cartoon icons amid tense racial discussion

Too much Christmas? Diane Kruger looks sleepy as she heads out in NYC wearing an old-school denim jacket
Troy actress runs errands in East Village

The brothers Banderas! Antonio is joined by sibling Javier as they pay a Boxing Day visit to Museum of Málaga
Back in their hometown

'I stand up to bullies with kindness and love': This Is Us star Chrissy Metz reveals how she deals with haters who attack her weight
The 36-year-old actress .

All rugged up! Princess Mary wears her Sunday best at Christmas Day church service in Denmark with her four children and husband Frederik

Mena Suvari sports a large plaster on her face after being scarred by spider bite as she stocks up on post-Christmas treats
Bitten while she slept

PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: Suki Waterhouse shows off her tanned and toned figure in a skimpy black bikini as she enjoys a family beach break in Barbados

Mila Kunis goes casual in sweater and jeans while she and Ashton Kutcher step out for breakfast in LA
Spotted heading to breakfast in Studio City

She's back! Avril Lavigne announces new music in 2017 after a two-year battle with Lyme disease
Singer's musical hiatus is over

Savannah Guthrie gushes about baby Charley's first Christmas and reveals what big sister Vale asked Santa for
NBC Today proud mom

Drugs claims surround George Michael's death as friends say he held 'hedonistic all night parties' before he died
What happened in tragic star's final hours?

'I'll never stop missing you': George Michael's lover is pictured visiting the singer on Christmas Eve - just hours before he found his lifeless body

Total knockout! Gisele Bundchen throws punches to burn off the Christmas feasting as she brags about new personalized boxing gloves

Nicola Peltz shows off lean limbs and taut tummy in several sultry Instagram snaps during tropical getaway
Seen in a mini dress and a black swimsuit

DON'T MISS

Bradley Cooper sports wild hair and a rugged beard as he and 'pregnant' girlfriend Irina Shayk head away for a post-Christmas break
Taking a vacation

Make-up-free Jessica Alba is casual but chic in hat and striped trouser suit as she jets out of L.A. with daughter Honor, 8, in tow
With her family

Literally pie-eyed! Katy Perry gets covered in cream as she loses out playing party game with sister Angela
Her face was covered in the tasty treat

Hot wheels! Kylie Jenner wears kinky knee-high boots as she goes for a ride with Tyga in brand new yellow Ferrari after family Christmas party

Walk on the wild side! Nicky Hilton dons animal print coat on stroll with husband James Rothschild in Aspen
Chic fashion sense

Solo to the cinema: Kanye West looks forlorn as he hits a matinee again without wife Kim Kardashian... after she stuns at momager's bash

Taking her for a ride! Ashley Olsen's much older financier lover Richard Sachs escorts her to car as they enjoy night out in St Barts

Chivalry isn't dead

Margot Robbie 'gave her wedding guests TATTOOS to celebrate her nuptials' to husband Tom Ackerley
Unique memento to mark the occasion

Model Emily Ratajkowski goes COMPLETELY NAKED on very sexy homemade Christmas cards as she covers her modesty with just her hands

Blac Chyna pampers herself at nail salon in camouflage tracksuit following Kris Jenner's Christmas stocking snub
No party no problem

Makeover! Ashley Benson spotted with newly-dyed pink hair for first time
Blondes don't necessarily have more fun

'It's my gift for the world!': Kylie Jenner is topless as she smokes a cigarette in steamy short film with boyfriend Tyga
Little to the imagination

Your Christmas present? Busy Philipps carries handbag with her children's names painted on it as she runs errands in LA
Back down to business

Tobey Maguire reunites with estranged wife Jennifer Meyer as they join their children on Christmas trip
Announced their separation in October

The look of love! Ruby Rose and her girlfriend Jessica Origliasso go make-up free as they spend the Christmas holidays together
Also Jess's birthday

Dwayne Johnson indulges in epic cheat meal featuring mound of french toast with loads of apple pie
He knows how to Rock Christmas

Comedian Ricky Harris dead at 54... as Snoop Dogg mourns loss of 'dear friend' he knew since childhood
Had a recurring role in Chris Rock sitcom

Ashley Graham shows off tummy in crop top as she enjoys safari with hubby Justin Ervin on holiday in Africa
Shaed photos from Pink Lake in Dakar, Senegal

Back at it! Kourtney Kardashian burns off Christmas calories with her trainer Don Brooks
The 37-year-old reality star worked up a sweat

'No excuses': Larsa Pippen proves she isn't letting the holidays ruin her revenge body as she poses for a selfie in the gym
Sticking to her regime

Bikini-clad Ivanka Trump and shirtless husband Jared enjoy a Four Seasons getaway in Hawaii with their children as they celebrate Hanukkah

Cheeky Lea Michele shows off pert derriere in black thong swimsuit as she dances in hot tub for sultry Snapchat video
She's a scream

George Michael's trauma of years spent hiding his sexuality from fans - and his father
George was painted as a lothario who bedded beautiful women

George Michael 'was in negotiations for a 2018 Australian tour' before his tragic death aged 53
Beloved singer was making plans for future right until his death

Britney Spears strikes Charlie's Angels pose in defiant Twitter post after hacking hoax spread rumors she died
Don't mess with Britney

Catherine Zeta-Jones, 47, shares rare family photo where husband Michael Douglas, 72, as well as kids Dylan and Carys lounge on Christmas

Bethenny Frankel looks every bit the snow bunny as she hits the slopes in Aspen... and even plugs Skinnygirl with branded snowboard
Snow angel

Amy Schumer shares BTS snap of her cop costume for Dog Stripper sketch
Also announced New Year's Eve stand-up gig in New Orleans

Boxing Day boost! Alec and Hilaria Baldwin go out for a coffee run with friends and baby Leo in the Hamptons
Headed out for a bit of Starbucks

She's back in the picture! Paris Hilton attends Kardashian Christmas party after patching things up with former frenemy Kim

All bundled up! Yolanda Hadid steps out in leather leggings and a heavy coat while on holiday in with Gigi, Bella and Anwar
Leggy in all black

'Nothing but love for you man': Kevin Hart visits Nick Cannon as he spent Christmas in hospital due to Lupus complications
Spreading festive cheer

Kate Hudson lets followers inside her Christmas celebration as mom Goldie Hawn cheers, Kurt Russell gets a shirt and her brothers wave

Marky Mark And the Chunky Bunch! Muscle-bound Wahlberg puts on a gun show as he goes for a dip in Barbados
Looked extremely buff

A very rosy Christmas! The Bachelorette star Jillian Harris announces engagement to boyfriend Justin Pasutto
Cause for celebration

'Hugs to this wonderful human': Bindi Irwin shares a sweet flashback photo of herself with boyfriend Chandler Powell
Breakfast fun

Thinking about a return to the stage Hugh? Jackman snapped backstage with Broadway musical cast... after returning stateside for Christmas

Where's Blac Chyna? Kris Jenner prepares Christmas stockings for her entire family... but leaves out Rob Kardashian's fiancée
One for Rob and Dream

'I'm frozen solid with all of this ice!' EJ Johnson shows off blinged-out necklace he received on Christmas... but is it from famous father Magic?

Growing up Kardashian: Kim's daughter North West, three, wears custom-made Alexander Wang dress to Kris Jenner's Christmas party

'You are a gift!': Kaley Cuoco gushes over boyfriend Karl Cook calling him a 'beautiful creature' on his Christmas birthday

Bradley Cooper's 'fiancée' Irina Shayk flashes a very flat tummy in tight crop top on the cover of Vogue Brazil as rumors persist she's pregnant

Kim Kardashian and family rock matching festive pajamas in adorable throwback from Christmas 2006
The ghosts of Christmas past

Kylie Jenner shares her favourite selfies of 2016... after gifting her nieces custom lips kits
'There were SO many good options to choose from,' she boasted

Stark reality: Sean Bean HASN'T been killed off more than anyone else in movies, despite online claims - that 'honor' belongs to Alien actor John Hurt

Clumsy Kate! Why does the duchess always have a band aid on her hand?
Her otherwise faultless image is often marred by the unsightly skin-colored tape

Beyonce edges Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda and Taylor Swift to capture title of DoSomething's most charitable celeb of the year

Miami escape! Makeup-free Cindy Crawford, 50, looks youthful in tank top as she strolls alongside husband Rande Gerber

There's a new supermodel in the house! Cindy Crawford's daughter Kaia Gerber outshines her fashion icon mom as they have a beachy Christmas

All tied up! Makeup-free Kelly Bensimon, 48, soaks up some Miami sunshine in a racy wrap black bikini
Clearly did not over do it at Christmas lunch

Supermodel Rachel Hunter claims she is 'feeding' fish as she shares a photo of herself going fishing during New Zealand Christmas homecoming

EXCLUSIVE: Newest 'Housewives' member Tinsley Mortimer is kept off red carpets by Bravo while her billionaire ex is trying to silence her from talking about their 'abusive' relationship

'She says I'm much curter with her!' Benedict Cumberbatch reveals his actress mom Vanessa thinks he's morphing into his Sherlock alter-ego

Holiday mode! Shanina Shaik cruises Sydney harbour with her super hot agent... after celebrating engagement anniversary to fiance DJ Ruckus

'No one likes a skinny sober b**': Lisa Rinna poses in Christmas pajamas with hubby Harry Hamlin... before vowing not to have New Year's resolution**

SEBASTIAN SHAKESPEARE: Why Jude Law's brood can't stop gurning this Christmas
Stretched by lip and mouth openers

Hey big spender! Kelsey Grammer, 61, looks thrilled with his haul from Louis Vuitton in Beverly Hills
Spotted on Christmas Eve

Too sexy for Santa! Bella Thorne, Ariel Winter, Kylie Jenner, Christina Aguilera and Kim Kardashian flaunt their curves during Christmas

P Diddy goes full Santa as he hosts Christmas party on his superyacht in St. Barths with French Montana, Dave Chappelle and family

Beaming beauty! Rebel Wilson boards luxury yacht in Sydney as she arrives back home for her NYE tradition of watching the fireworks on the harbor

A Christmas tradition! Maria Shriver beams as she joins sons Patrick and Christopher Schwarzenegger at Lakers vs Clippers basketball game

'I loved being on Friends!' Model Elle Macpherson gushes over hit show and calls the stars 'brilliant' - months after saying she regretted the TV stint

That doesn't sound good! Suki Waterhouse's aspiring music career gets off to a shaky start as debut track Brutally shifts just 296 copies

Lucky fan and college grad, 23, receives Chrissy Teigen's red dress in the mail after gushing to the star on Twitter - and she knows what she'll be wearing on New Year's Eve

'This year had its ups and downs': Jennifer Lopez, 47, reflects on 2016 that included split from Casper Smart and reunion with Marc Anthony

'The loves of my life': Teresa Giudice shares sweet photos of her four daughters before spending first Christmas without husband Joe

Getting serious? Britney Spears spends Christmas day with 'boyfriend' Sam Asghari
Turned up together in his Instagram Story

Sam Champion done at The Weather Channel just two years after announcing he was leaving Good Morning America for new post
Quietly stepped down

Peace for the kids: Tarek and Christina El Moussa put their differences aside post split to spend Christmas day with their children

For the love of bread! Oprah shows how to get her Christmas carb fix as tries to stay on track over the holiday period after dropping over 40 pounds

Bringing down the house: New image from the Disney Pixar film Coco is released
The film is about a boy who comes from a family of music banners

Sparkle and glow! Jaime King shows off a range of makeup looks for Revlon holiday takeover on Instagram
The actress, 37, starred in a series of holiday ads

Christmas in paradise! Sofia Vergara posts photos from incredible holiday with husband Joe Manganiello
Weekend in paradise

She can sing AND plays basketball! Delta Goodrem looks glamorous in a silk blouse as she shoots hoops using only one hand

Now that Christmas is over, it's time to plug the Oscars! Jimmy Kimmel stars in first commercial for the Academy Awards show

PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: Elizabeth Hurley recreates The Sound Of Music scene with son Damian and friends during a stroll in the countryside

Rosie O'Donnell celebrates Christmas with four of her five children while troubled daughter Chelsea spends the holiday with her new husband

Lady Victoria Hervey shows off her enviably svelte physique in TINY purple bikini as she spends day after Christmas on idyllic beach in Barbados

'Barbados blues': Lottie Moss posts cheeky bikini flashback as she pines for THAT bizarre break with beau Alex Mytton and his ex-girlfriend

'Got all dressed up for Christmas!!' Jessica Simpson poses makeup free in candy cane onesie with father Joe
She looked cute in the grey one-piece

The baby is here! Nick Lachey announces wife Vanessa gave birth to third child on Christmas Eve
Named him Phoenix Robert Lachey

Rachel Weisz looks chic in opulent fur-trim coat as she supports husband Daniel Craig's theatre stint in Othello with son Henry and actor Mark Strong

'My little mermaid!' Proud dad David Beckham shares sweet snap of swimming Harper as family enjoy idyllic break with pals the Ramsays
.

'Rogue One' dominates the holiday weekend box office and singing cartoon animals come in second
The 'Star Wars' story brought in $96 million

'Britney Spears is ALIVE': Sony Music forced to clarify that pop singer has not died after 'hackers' break into their Twitter account

Urban cowboy! Mickey Rourke, 64, adds large belt buckle to a city chic outfit as he takes his dog to lunch in Beverly Hills

They're engaged! Sweet Valley High actress Brittany Daniel gets large diamond ring during proposal from Adam Touni in San Francisco

She's a beach bum! VS Angel Izabel Goulart flaunts derriere as she packs on the PDA during St Barts getaway
Couldn't keep her hands off her beau

Keeping up with the Car-dashians! Kris Jenner and family gift each other classic autos for Christmas... and mom Mary Jo gets TWO
Lavish gifts

Christmas surprise! Country-crooning couple Kelsea Ballerini and Morgan Evans get engaged after nine months
Popped the question

It's a girl! Former Disney star Christy Carlson Romano welcomes first child with husband Brendan on Christmas Eve
Now mother to a little girl

Happy holidays from the Trump family! Ivanka and Co manage to get their kids to sit still for sweet snaps of them celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah

Kourtney Kardashian shares Christmas Eve snap of her 'modern family'
'Merry Christmas from my modern family to yours!'

Wedding bells! Shanina Shaik celebrates the one year anniversary of her ENGAGEMENT to DJ Ruckus and hints they may marry soon
Set to tie the knot

Cruz-ing along nicely: Pop star Beckham, 11, shares cute picture of himself and Gordon Ramsay's daughter Tilly, 15, as they swim with turtles

Heartbroken fans lay flowers outside George Michael's house after his death 'of heart failure' aged just 53 as Andrew Ridgeley pays tribute

'I loved him very, very much': George Michael's former partner Kenny Goss reveals his heartbreak after rekindling his friendship with the singer

Today's headlines | Most Read

Carrie Fisher's mother Debbie Reynolds, 84, is 'rushed to hospital with possible stroke' day after daughter...

BREAKING NEWS: JonBenét Ramsey's brother files $750million lawsuit against CBS for cold case special that...

How to EAT your way to success: Millionaire businessman reveals the diets of the world's rich and powerful...

Kerry tells Israel to stop the settlements or face being 'Jewish or democratic but NOT both' - to fury of...

Trump clobbers Obama for 'disdain and disrespect' of Israel as he urges Jewish state to 'stay strong' – and...

Animated kids movie Sing is accused of racism because its gorilla characters are criminals who like hip hop...

Career criminal who 'murdered' Step Up actress in DC tells police she killed HERSELF after the pair had...

Army colonel sobs in court as he's sentenced to 12 years in child pornography case

Men reveal the REAL reasons they honk at women as they drive past (and their excuses for catcalling will...

'This picture says white supremacy has won': Critics accuse black actor of 'colorism' in Christmas photo...

Suicide by court: Convicted Charleston mass murderer Dylann Roof will NOT ask to be spared the death penalty

Married man 65, is sentenced to life in prison for murdering single soccer mom who led a

secret double life...

A snow room, virtual golf course with whisky bar and rainforest jungle experience are the latest perks...

'It takes all the fun out of chasing bad guys!': Georgia police post hilarious note to accused shoplifter...

EXCLUSIVE: Prince Harry's pub drinks with his 'second father' as girlfriend Meghan Markle wraps up against...

Nicolas Cage 'is worried that playing Ronald Reagan in a flattering light in upcoming movie could damage his...

'I was just lying there then they appeared, two beautiful beings with wings dressed in white': Incredible...

Heroic 14-year-old daughter texts a friend to beg for help as 'demonic' captor kept her tied up for two days...

Is there a Nazi UFO site buried in the Antarctic? Bizarre theory claims base is hidden in mysterious...

Are you CLEVER enough to answer Oxford University's entry questions? Prestigious institution reveals just...

University of Kansas students are being offered buttons spelling out their preferred gender pronouns

Is this why you take fewer risks as you get older? Levels of a feel-good brain chemical diminish over the...

Merkel is punished for her open door refugee policy as backing for German chancellor's party crumbles amid...

Record 55,000 migrants left Germany voluntarily this year - more than TWICE the number that were deported

The most outrageous vanity plates in America: Drivers who take to the road with rude, controversial and...

Woman, 30, beheaded in Afghanistan for entering a city to go shopping without her husband

PICTURED: Student who killed teacher and their love child because he resented paying child support and did...

Gwyneth Paltrow hopes she has 'contributed something positive to the culture of divorce' and says ex-husband...

The average woman changes dress size 31 TIMES in her life (and marriage causes them to pile on the pounds)

MORE HEADLINES

FROM THE MAKERS OF CANDY CRUSH

Farm Heroes Saga, the #4 Game on iTunes. Play it now!

more

Back to top

Home | U.K. | News | Sports | U.S. Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Columnists

Sitemap | Archive | Video Archive | Topics Index | Mobile Apps | Screensaver | RSS | Text-based site | Reader Prints | Our Papers | Top of page
Daily Mail | Mail on Sunday | This is Network | This is Money
Metro | Jobsite | Mail Travel | Zoopla.co.uk | Prime Location

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd
Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

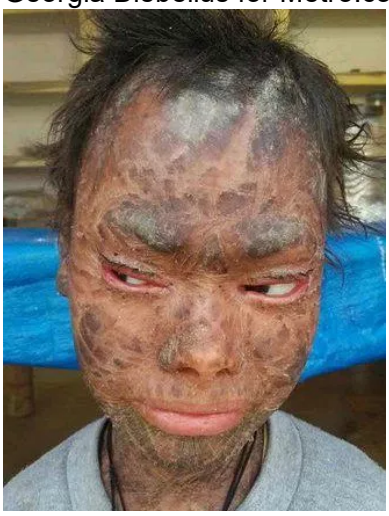
Contact us How to complain Advertise with us Contributors Work with Us Terms Privacy policy & cookies

Girl who has to shed her own skin thrown out of school for scaring classmates

metro.co.uk

Teenager who has to shed her own skin thrown out of school because classmates are scared of her

Georgia Diebelius for Metro.co.ukSaturday 28 Jan 2017 6:23 pm



Teenager Shalini Yadav sheds her skin every two months (Picture: SWNS)

A teenager who sheds her skin every six weeks because of an ultra-rare condition has been kicked out of school because other children 'are scared of her'.

Shalini Yadav is supposed to smear her body with moisturiser in a bid to stop it from hardening and seizing up.

However she is unable to as her family have so little money, they were forced to choose between spending it on creams for the 16-year-old, or food for eight people – including her grandparents.

The teenager, who lives in India, was recently thrown out of school because of her extraordinary appearance.

The only reason she was given is that 'the children would get scared by seeing her face'.

The 16 year-old needs to constantly smear her body with moisturizer to stop it from hardening and seizing up. But she can't. (Picture: SWNS)

Her family are so poor they cannot afford the treatment and need to spend their money on providing food for eight people including her grandparents (Picture: SWNS)

The Indian teenager had been thrown out of school because of her extraordinary appearance (Picture: SWNS)

Doctors have diagnosed her with Erythroderma, an inflammatory skin disease also known as 'red man syndrome', but are unable to treat it.

It causes the skin over almost the entire body to become scaly and flake off.

Shalini has had to shed her skin every 45 days since she was born.

And between each shedding period, she must soak her body in water every hour – night and day – and smear herself with lotion every three hours to prevent drying out.

Her desperate mother Devkunwar said: 'Shalini is suffering from the disease since childhood.

'We saw several doctors but none of them could cure her and her condition has continued to get worse.

‘I feel so helpless when I see her skin coming off, causing excruciating pain to my child.

‘This disease is not killing her but taking her life bit by bit.

‘We have no idea where to go to and who to consult.’

Doctors have diagnosed Erythroderma, an inflammatory skin disease also known as ‘red man syndrome’, but are unable to treat it (Picture: SWNS)
The condition causes the skin over almost the entire body to become scaly and flake off (Picture: SWNS)

Devkunwar, a care-giver in a state-funded community centre, is so heart-broken she claims ‘death would be kinder’ to her daughter.

She added: ‘It is better to die than living a life of misery.’

Her father Rajbahadur said: ‘It is similar to being severely burnt, from the sole of her feet to her head.’

Shalini said: ‘I wanted to study but they threw me out of school as the children would get scared by seeing my face.

‘Everybody in the family is suffering because of my medical condition.

‘But what is my fault? What sin did I commit to be cursed with such a disease. I want to live.

‘Please help me, if you can.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Terrifying moment daredevil riders jump through a bonfire on horse back

By Nigel Wiskar Jane Lavender 16:00, 17 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

In honor of Saint Anthony the Abbot, the patron saint of animals, horses are riden through the bonfires on the night before the official day of honoring animals in Spain

This is the terrifying moment a man rides a horse through a bonfire during 'Las Luminarias' Festival in San Bartolome de Pinares, Spain.

In honor of Saint Anthony the Abbot, the patron saint of animals, horses are riden through the bonfires on the night before the official day of honoring animals in Spain.

The tradition, which is hundreds of years old, is meant to purify and protect the animal in the coming year.

Hundreds of locals take part in the traditions and insist the horses are never hurt in the evnts.

The jumping tradition takes place until midnight and then people drink and celebrate until dawn in the Spanish town.

Mayor, Maria Jesus Martin, insists no horse is forced to jump over the flames.

She told The Sun : "Not one burn, not even one harmed horse."

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

That's Not A Dead Body, It's Just A Zombie

huffingtonpost.com

State officials aren't laughing.

01/11/2017 04:30 pm ET

Two Ohio men are under investigation by state officials after a zombie prank left some frightened residents thinking that there were human remains in a state park.

Dustin Smith and Jasen Dixon, who are widely known for staging an annual "zombie nativity scene" near Cincinnati, said they were just looking for a little fun when they placed fake body parts beneath a frozen, backyard pond for Facebook photos.

To make it more exciting, they pretended in their posts that the body parts were human.

"Everyone knew we were kidding especially 'cause we kept putting the link to the zombie nativity scene site up after every post. Nobody in my Facebook thought it was real," Smith told The Huffington Post Wednesday.

But Dixon, speaking to Fox 6 News, said some people were fooled.

"[Smith] pretended he was camping at East Fork [State Park] and ran across a body frozen in the ice. We messed with people and everyone was falling for it," he told the station.

Eventually, Dixon said they came clean about it being a gag. Unfortunately at least one person missed the memo and contacted authorities.

"About two hours after it started is when I received the call from the [Department of Natural Resources]," Smith said.

In a video posted Monday to a Facebook page for the "Zombie nativity scene," Smith said a DNR agent interrogated him over the photos. During their meeting, he was told that they sent someone out to the lake to search for a body.

"The problem, he said, is that there are people whose last known whereabouts were at that lake and they haven't been found," Smith says in the video.

"They said that I was facing up to three charges but when I asked what they were he couldn't tell me," he told HuffPost of his conversation with the DNR.

Smith expressed surprise by the DNR's reaction, stating: "I didn't expect any of this at all. I've seen the same kind of thing go unnoticed before and did not think that it would go where it did."

Still, he said he believes that the investigation will end without further issue.

"They haven't brought any charges on me and as far as I know I didn't do anything illegal. If it was a major law I broke they would have charged me already," he said.

A spokesman for the state's DNR confirmed the investigation but provided no further comment when reached by HuffPost Wednesday.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The dead-bird detective

theweek.com

ChrisSweeney

Tom Fowlks

February 5, 2017

Pepper Trail is the first to admit he has an unusual skill set. Give him a single feather or a small fragment of a claw or a cooked hunk of breast meat, and he'll tell you the species of bird from which it came. As the world's leading criminal forensic ornithologist, Trail is asked day in and day out to perform these exact tasks. Over the past 18 years he has assisted with hundreds of investigations, testified in federal court 15 times, and handled more bird carcasses than anyone should. "All birders have life lists," Trail says. "I have a death list."

Trail isn't joking. He opens a file on his computer and scrolls through a list of 750 species of dead birds he has identified throughout his career. The decor of his work space at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, blends bird-nerd kitsch with macabre relics of closed cases. A "Waddling Penguin Pooper" wind-up toy sits on a bookshelf still in its original packaging. Atop a filing cabinet is a confiscated necklace made from the claws and skull of a cassowary. Nearby is a long, sleek feather ripped from an Andean condor wing and attached to a pin that customs agents seized from a polka dancer coming into Chicago. "There's actually a trade in condor feathers from Peru to Germany to decorate polka hats," Trail says.

If a Fish and Wildlife agent ends up working a case that involves any sort of bird part, there's a good chance the evidence will land on Trail's desk for inspection. Because not all birds are protected equally, his IDs play an important role in the legal process that helps agents and prosecutors determine what laws are being broken and what charges can be brought against the perpetrators. It should come as no surprise that ornithological forensics is an exceedingly obscure career path. The field didn't even exist until the 1960s. Yet the size and scope of Trail's caseload — more than 100 cases a year, involving well over 1,000 pieces of evidence — attests to the fact that this little-known arm of law enforcement plays a critical role in conservation.

Sometimes Trail receives a blob of black sludge from an oil pit containing a decomposed bird and has to extract the feathers, restore them, and ID the species. Other times he gets the smashed remains of an animal demolished by a wind turbine. He has investigated high-end artifacts smuggled into the country — an indigenous Amazonian crown made from curassow body feathers, toucan throat feathers, and scarlet macaw tail feathers, for example — and cheap dream catchers

peddled at tourist traps across the Southwest. The findings go both ways; the evidence in question might be made from perfectly legal turkey feathers or the feathers of a protected sub-adult golden eagle.

In 2013 Trail received a shipment of 43 hummingbirds. The carcasses, which were each about the size of an index finger, had been dried out and stuffed into red paper tubes that were decorated with matching satin tassels. Accompanying each was a Spanish-language prayer meant to invoke the mystical powers of *la chuparosa*, a colloquial Mexican name for the hummingbird, in order to help a man find his true love. That the animals were intact — no birdshot wounds, no decapitations, and with minimal damage to the colorful plumage — led Trail to suspect that they had been gently squeezed to death one by one in a human hand.

Trail didn't know what to make of them. "When they first appeared, it was like, 'Holy crap, what in the world is this?'" he says. A special agent had obtained the birds during an undercover buy from a man who was smuggling them in from Mexico. Following protocol, Trail unwrapped the birds from their ceremonial garb, identified the different species, and filed the necessary paperwork. A year later, another shipment arrived. And then another. The victims spanned at least 10 species, including violet-crowned, magnificent, and blue-throated hummingbirds — dazzling border species that attract birders to southern Arizona each year.

As familiar as Trail is with death, these hummingbirds pack an emotional punch. "Their very tininess makes them delightful and charming. Their extraordinary flying ability makes them impressive and awe-inspiring," he says. "Our power compared to their power is so great that it seems particularly perverse and cruel to kill them."

At age 63 Trail has identified enough dead birds for a lifetime, and he is looking at the prospect of retirement with greater fondness. More uplifting pursuits surely await the gentle soul who in his downtime pens award-winning poetry and dresses up as Charles Darwin to deliver scientific lectures.

But at the moment, Trail's retirement would spell disaster for the only wildlife-forensics lab in the world. "Pepper is one of a kind," says Ken Goddard, director of the lab. "If something happens to Pepper, we're SOL."

Pepper Trail didn't set out to make a name for himself in the dark world of avian-associated crimes. He was born in Virginia — his great-grandfather was Paris Pepper Trail, and his great-uncle was Peach Trail — but grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York. A boyhood spent exploring the outdoors and admiring wildlife led to a degree in biology and a Ph.D. in ornithology from nearby Cornell University.

As a young ornithologist Trail plodded through South American rain forests in pursuit of the Guianan cock-of-the-rock. Then he strung together a few postdocs, which eventually landed him and his family in American Samoa. Island life was a formative experience, but with two young sons, priorities shifted, and Trail and his pediatrician wife moved to Ashland, a crunchy college town in southern Oregon world-famous for its Shakespeare festival. "The old Samoa-to-Ashland routine," Trail jokes of the transition.

The job market has never been friendly to ornithologists, so Trail split time during those first years back in the States picking up contract work, raising his sons, and writing a sci-fi eco-thriller for young adults. Out of the blue one day in 1998 he received a call from the National Fish and Wildlife

Forensics Laboratory, which happened to be a short drive from his home. The lab's first and only ornithologist had left suddenly and cases were piling up — they needed a stopgap and wanted to know if Trail was available for a few months.

What started out as a temporary gig has blossomed into a nearly two-decade-long career. The forensics lab where Trail spends his days is an impressive facility equipped to analyze whatever evidence Fish and Wildlife special agents can uncover, whether it be illegal timber or a purported aphrodisiac made from bear gallbladders. There is a ballistics expert on staff, as well as genetics and pathology departments, an entire biosafety level-3 lab, and DNA-sequencing technology that seems fit for an episode of *CSI*.

Trail's tactics, however, are decidedly more analog. He's a morphologist who makes identifications by carefully studying and comparing anatomical characteristics of different bird parts. In most cases, this approach is not only faster and cheaper than booting up the sequencers and calling the genetics team, it's also equally effective. It has to be. Much like forensic evidence in a murder trial, the science behind Trail's work needs to withstand the scrutiny of aggressive defense attorneys, diligent judges, and impartial juries.

While from the outside the job can look like it's all gloom and doom, the analytical rigor it demands nourishes and inspires Trail's inner scientist. Patterns in his caseload have proven to be good fodder for research pursuits. For instance, after identifying thousands of birds that had died in oil pits — pools of runoff and waste that are found at oil-production sites — Trail collected the data, crunched the numbers, and published the most comprehensive scientific review of the issue, estimating that upward of 1 million birds perish in these pits each year, the vast majority of which are protected species. Moreover, Trail has devised and documented a method for determining an eagle species based solely on the curvature of detached talon fragments. "He is a scientist in the fullest sense of the word," says Ed Espinoza, deputy director of the forensics lab.

In the chain of command of wildlife law enforcement, Trail occupies a unique space. He doesn't chase down the bad guys or trek around collecting clues. Instead he enters the fray in the middle of an investigation, identifies the evidence, and then moves on to the next case. Oftentimes he is intentionally kept in the dark with regard to the investigation's details so that the circumstances of the alleged crime can't influence his scientific judgment. Rarely does he have the bandwidth to follow a case long enough to learn whether or to what extent the perpetrators are prosecuted.

Every once in a while, though, a case will be so perplexing or so unsettling that Trail can't help but lose himself in it. Take the chuparosas, for example. The most recent shipment of the hummingbird charms, which remains under active investigation, arrived at his office in February 2015. Because hummingbirds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Trail has been working closely with special agent James Markley in hopes of digging up everything they can on the trade to understand its size and impact. "It's pretty much unknown among U.S. ornithologists that this trade even exists," Trail says.

Based on what they've seen so far, Trail and Markley have concluded that the birds are killed and packaged in Mexico, then smuggled into the United States, where they are sold at botanicas, small shops that specialize in things like herbal remedies and religious trinkets. "It's not hard to find them," says Markley, whose investigations have focused on the Dallas area. The charms are similar to a rabbit's foot in American culture — carry it and good fortune will follow, though chuparosas appear to be specifically for amorous pursuits. Markley has been told that they are sold to help soothe the heartbreak of grieving widowers and help adulterous Romeos avoid chance encounters between

their wives and mistresses. Mostly, though, they're meant to help lonely-hearted singles find their soul mates.

Trail worries that the black market for these love charms may be vast. In Mexico, where the spiritual legacy of hummingbirds stretches back to the Aztecs, the trade appears robust. Among the more troubling clues he has come across is a small sticker on the packaging of some of the charms that says "Hecho en Mexico," or "Made in Mexico," a sign that there is some sort of commercial-scale operation.

As for how many hummingbirds are killed each year, Trail can't yet hazard a guess because the trade is so new to investigators and information is hard to come by. In the only known study of the trade, researchers counted 655 charms during visits to Mexico City's Sonora Market. Many of the vendors interviewed for the study said the birds are killed by slingshot and collected from the states near the center of the country, including Querétaro, Hidalgo, and Puebla.

Trail knows all too well that fighting any type of wildlife trade comes with logistical, financial, and cultural challenges. He has begun collaborating with Mexican ornithologists who know of chuparosas but have never considered them a conservation issue. Meanwhile, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has only 250 or so special agents, which makes it difficult to devote resources to the problem.

Trail doesn't know for sure when he is going to walk away from the forensics lab, but he's hoping that the service soon hires his replacement so he has at least a year or two to share the wisdom he has gleaned from the many cases that have passed across his desk. For a man who has devoted his career to protecting birds by identifying them in death, a sense of finality can seem elusive. "There are a couple of trade items that I've come across in my career that I feel are a little bit unresolved or that I would like to have some closure on," Trail says. "One is the chuparosas."

Excerpted from an article that originally appeared in Audubon *magazine. Reprinted with permission.*

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Aboriginal people kept in a 'human zoo' and paraded alongside animals dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com
MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Lured from their homes, stripped of their clothes and put on display like animals: Haunting photos show the Aboriginal people who were kept in 'The Human Zoo' that toured the world

- **Aboriginal people were kept alongside animals and paraded around the world**
- **Up to 20 Indigenous Australians were exhibited in Europe and North America**
- **Aboriginal people were put on display as 'boomerang throwing savages'**
- **The shameful part of the nation's history will be detailed in a new documentary**

By Riley Morgan and Max Margan For Daily Mail Australia

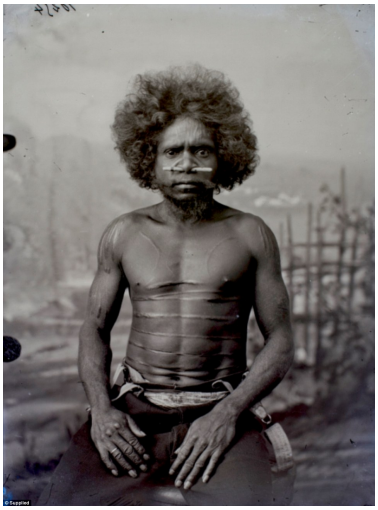
Indigenous Australians were kept alongside animals and paraded around the world in what was dubbed 'The Human Zoo'.

In the late 19th and mid 20th centuries up to 20 Aboriginal people, along with tens of thousands of other entrapped humans, were put on display around Europe and North America.

The Palm Island community in North Queensland has been reunited with the remains of an ancestor who was exhibited in the 'zoo', according to the ABC.

Palm Island elder Walter Palm Island told the publication: 'My father's genealogy shows that an uncle died in America in a circus... and it was like a jigsaw puzzle putting these pieces together.'

Indigenous Australians were kept alongside animals and paraded around the world in what was called The Human Zoo



In the late 19th and mid 20th centuries up to 20 Aboriginal people were put on display around Europe and North America

'Looking at the images and pictures of the ancestors, I can see the pain and suffering they had in the expressions on their face. And how degraded they were.

'They lost a lot of their self-esteem and confidence in themselves as human beings. They were treated as animals.'

- From Coles worker and high school student to the face of the... What a mullet! Aboriginal advocate and heavy metal singer...

The shameful part of the nation's history will be detailed in a new documentary, Inside Human Zoos, set for release later this year.

Australian Cinematographer Philip Rang, who is working on the film, said Aboriginal people were put on display as 'boomerang throwing savages.'

The shameful part of the nation's history will be detailed in a new documentary

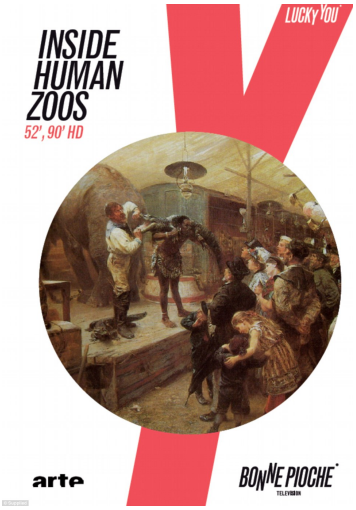
Australian Cinematographer Philip Rang, pictured right, said Aboriginal people were put on display as 'boomerang throwing savages'

'Indigenous humans from all parts of the colonised world were exhibited in World Exhibitions, Zoos, Freak Shows, circuses such as PJ Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth, and reconstructed ethnic villages in Europe,' he told Daily Mail Australia.

'It's an obligation that we as the white fella recognise and sympathise with the harm which has been endured up until when "The Aboriginal Act" was suppressed.

'And by participating in this documentary is one of the best ways as a cinematographer I can contribute.'

The documentary will premiere in France in June.



The documentary, Inside Animal Zoos will premiere in France in June

The comments below have been moderated in advance.

jeff jeffries, Beirut, Lebanon, 1 day ago

Did you forget the last eight years ?

placemarch, Christchurch, New Zealand, 1 day ago

Add your comment

They did exsactly the same with the Inuite people of Alaska. It seemed to be a national pass time in those days. It's upsetting to see.

18
268

Peter99, London, 1 day ago

It was normal for the time, why fret now!

350
179

Fredator, Birkenhead, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

Bloody disgusting the way they were, and are treated!

null, 1 day ago

The USA will be doing this again very soon you watch! They are a despicable hateful bunch of racists!

dododody, Gympie, Australia, 1 day ago

We know what happened. it's history. And history should not be forgotten, but we can't be held responsible for our forefathers mistakes .

lucyboo, Maidstone, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

I bet half the chattering outraged watch far, far worse online.

reece987, Melbourne, Australia, 1 day ago

Haha, love the way how people here exhibit scorn when in actuality Trump has started the ball rolling on racial and religious profiling. The people here were exhibited because they were deemed less than human. More like animals. Right now, Muslims are seen as less than human. Mexicans are seen as less than human. They are seen as animals so different than Americans because of their violent and opportunistic tendencies. Many Americans and people worldwide believe this. So we don't learn from our past.

Barry bongo, Worcestershire, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

We can't judge the past by today's standards and ethic morals. If those white people were alive today they would equally be disgusted. I am by no means saying this is rights but people & the world back then was less educated than today. A different place, a different time. Think of that before leaving a condescending comment!

HustlersParadise, London, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

Typical story - the indigenous people in US and AUS were robbed of their nations. Yet these new guests claim it to be their lands- madness

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

By posting your comment you agree to our house rules.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The 'Peruvian vampire' - from East Lancashire

21 May 2009

lancashiretelegraph.co.uk

LANCASHIRE Telegraph

O2 Media Awards 2016 North West Best Website (joint winners)

BLOOD-sucking vampire or a humble Blackburn cotton weaver?

Sarah Roberts, an East Lancashire woman who died 96 years ago in Peru, is one of the most iconic cult figures in the South American country.

According to Peruvian legend, she had to be buried there as nowhere else in the world would take the casket of a woman believed to be one of the three brides of Dracula.

But historians in East Lancashire said Sarah was 'just a cotton weaver' and that there was no substance whatsoever in the Peruvian myth.

Now her gory legend is being immortalised in a play being written by villagers from Pisco, in the south of Peru.

They want to hear from any descendants of Sarah in East Lancashire.

Pisco legend says in June 1913, Sarah, of Isherwood Street, Blackburn, was sentenced to death by East Lancashire officials after she was accused of being a witch, a vampire and a murderer.

They believe as she was flung, still alive, into a lead-lined coffin, she cursed those who had consigned her to her fate and vowed to return for vengeance in 80 years – 1993.

Fear led the authorities to ban her body from their graveyards, legend says.

Drama enthusiast Racso Miro Quesada, who is turning the legend into a play, said: "Her husband J.P. Roberts travelled the world trying to find a place to bury his wife.

"Because of the things she was accused of, there was no place on earth where she could rest.

"No one wanted to have the remains of the person he loved.

"She ended up being accepted in a small fishing town in south Peru – Pisco."

In 1993, as Sarah was due to exact her revenge, her gravestone cracked.

Pregnant women fled in fear that Sarah's spirit might try to reincarnate itself in their child and hundreds bought vampire kits, complete with garlic and a wooden stake, before descending on the graveyard to await the resurrection.

When she failed to appear, those who had been throwing holy water and praying said they had kept the ghoul at bay.

Peruvian television produced a documentary of the happenings in 1993.

Rasco said: “The story of this woman from Blackburn is one of the most iconic cults in Peru.

"It is a story of love, fear, renaissance and perseverance.

“Pisco was in the media some time ago because of a gigantic earthquake.

“People travel long distances to visit Sarah’s grave.

“It happens to be one of the only graves that survived the earthquake – something that reinforces the belief that Sarah is a powerful saint.”

However, Roger Booth, Blackburn with Darwen’s library officer for local history, said: “Sarah has gone down in history, but in reality she was just a cotton weaver.

“It is understandable people in Peru may have believed this tale in 1913 but it is hard to see how they still thought she was going to emerge from her grave in 1993.”

WHAT THE LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS SAY

SARAH Ellen Gargett was born in Burnley in 1862 and was known to be living at Bolton Road, Blackburn.

She married weaver John Pryce Roberts, then of Charlotte Street, Blackburn, at St John’s Church, Blackburn, in 1892.

By the time the 1901 census was taken they had two children, William and Frank.

In that year John’s brother left his job as manager of St Paul’s weaving mill, Nab Lane, to take up a similar position at a cotton mill in Lima, Peru.

Records show that both John and Sarah made trips to see him, including a visit in 1913, when Sarah died on June 9 in Pisco.

In a spooky twist her death was reported in the obituary column of the Northern Daily Telegraph on Friday the 13th.

Peruvian legend said John vanished and was never seen again after burying his wife, but records show he opened a grocery shop in Johnston Street in 1922. He died in 1925 was buried at the old Blackburn cemetery.

Following numerous requests from across the world, Stephen Smith, a volunteer for local history website Cotton Town, tried to find out more about her life.

He said: “After 96 years it is hard to get a true picture of the couple. What the cause of her death was is now a mystery. There was a story that Sarah had another son while she was in Peru so perhaps she died in childbirth or maybe she died of some disease.”

- ©Copyright 2001-2016

This site is part of Newsquest's audited local newspaper network | A Gannett Company

Newsquest (North West) Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. HP10 9TY|3102566|Registered in England & Wales

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Thousands visit spot where Fred West's home once stood in rise of 'Dark Tourism'

By Alex Shipman Stephen Jones 19:44, 31 JAN 2017 Updated 02:49, 1 FEB 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Macabre visits to places like Cromwell Street in Gloucester are apparently on the rise

Every year thousands of people visit the spot where serial killers Fred and Rose West 's house once stood in Gloucester.

It may have been demolished 20 years ago - after the remains of nine young women were found buried beneath the property - but that doesn't stop people being intrigued.

The infamous site in Cromwell Street was actually knocked down and replaced by an alleyway - making it easy for people to inspect.

Gloucestershire Live reports that this type of visit has a name – 'Dark Tourism'.

"It's something that appeals to the curiosity of everyone," explains Chris Lloyd, a documentary maker who is working on a programme that explores the industry.

"I know an accountant who does it and he has a wife and a family."

The 30-year-old, from Cardiff, speaks to people fascinated by the sites of notorious crimes and 'dark tour' guides.

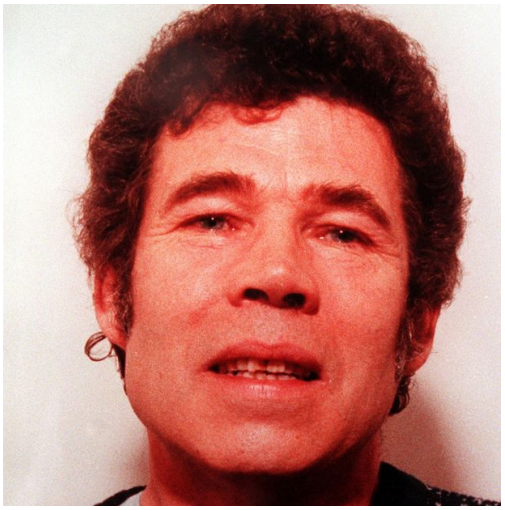
This includes Adrian Mitchell, who moved to Gloucester for work and became interested in the Wests who between them **murdered at least 12 people.**

He said: "By the time I'd moved here, the house had been demolished so there wasn't anything actually to see.

"But just the curiosity of coming here, seeing where everything took place, the fact this was a normal street and these were horrific crimes committed by somebody who is well known in the area, was just fascinating to me.

"If you're a neighbour and you're involved in any way or were here at the time, you're probably sick of the constant interest.

"If you were doing a tour specifically just to make money out of a murder site then, if it was recent, I would be concerned about that."



Chris, a final year student at the University of South Wales, has visited more than 30 'dark tourist' locations around the world – including Ground Zero in New York and Aberfan, where the mining disaster happened in 1966.

He added: "I'm not some crazy guy visiting these places but I'm investigating why regular folk do this kind of thing. The industry is massive."

An academic centre, the Institute for Dark Tourism Research, or iDTR, opened its doors at the University of Central Lancashire in 2012.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

told-in-Pictures.jpg'; }

MURDER BY Gaslight

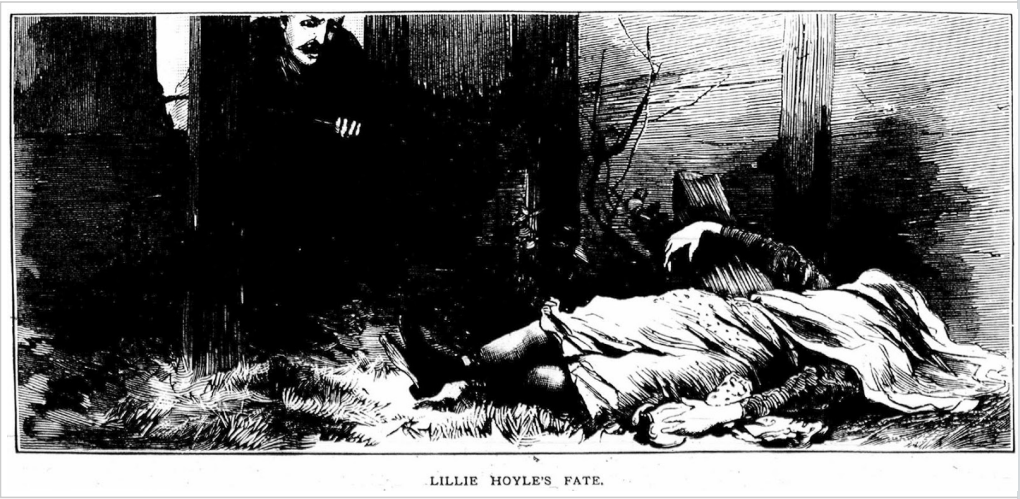
A compendium of information, resources and discussion on notable nineteenth century American murders.

Saturday, March 15, 2014

The Webster Mystery.

0 comments

Alice Hoyle had last seen her sister, Lillie the night of September 1, 1887 in the room they shared in Webster, Massachusetts. Lillie had left to use the outhouse and Alice fell asleep before she returned. The next morning, Alice was late for work and left in a rush, thinking that her sister had already left for her job. That evening Lillie did not come home and Alice noticed that her watch and jewelry were still on the nightstand where she had left them the night before. Lillie had gone out and never come back. This is the story Alice told the police the following day. As the investigation progressed, she would change it several times.



LILLIE HOYLE'S FATE.

Date: September 1, 1887

Location: Webster, Massachusetts

Victim: Lillie (Lilla) Hoyle

Cause of Death: Chloroform.

Accused: Dixon R. Cowie & Thomas B. McQuaid

Synopsis:

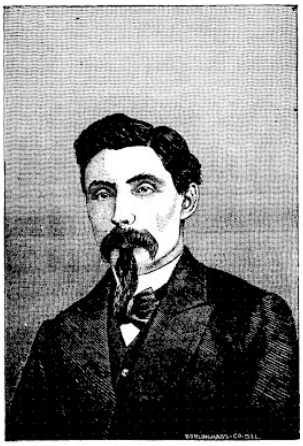
Welcome to Murder by Gaslight

Greed, jealousy, revenge, obsession – the motives of America's gas-lit murders are universal and timeless. Yet their stories are tightly bound to a particular place and time; uniquely American, uniquely 19th Century.

From the Archives.

Love and Law.

The tragic love affair between Charles Kring and Dora Broemser ended in one maddened instant—he asked her to leave her husband, she refu...



CHAS. F. KRING.

Buy My Books

Lillie Hoyle, age twenty-three, and her sister Alice, age nineteen, were orphans; their father died when they were very young and their mother died in 1883. Though they took care of themselves, they had the support of a number of aunts and uncles living in Webster, Massachusetts. They shared a room in a 2 ½ story house rented by their uncle Dixon Cowie, and Lillie worked in a restaurant and ice cream saloon on the first floor, run by Mrs. Sarah Taylor. Alice worked in a mill not far away.

Lillie Hoyle in *The Chimes of Normandy*

According to Alice, Lillie had been in a good mood the night she disappeared, singing and laughing, joking with her sister. The girls had recently returned from a week's vacation at Camp White on the Providence River in Rhode Island and Lillie was still in high spirits from the trip. Alice was tired and was already in bed when Lillie changed out of her summer dress and into a faded blue satin wrapper, then left the room. Uncle Dixon, the last person to see Lillie alive, watched her leave the house and head toward the outhouse.

When Lillie failed to return the people of Webster began a frantic search. Though Lillie had shown no signs of depression, ponds in the area were dragged in fear that she had committed suicide. There was no trace of Lillie until September 20, when two men on their way to go fishing in the adjoining town of Oxford, noticed a foul stench coming from an abandoned corn crib. When they investigated further they found the decomposed body of a woman wedged between the timbers of the crib. Her hand and feet were tied and a shawl and other clothing covered her head.

The body was taken to an undertaker's and was very soon identified as Lillie Hoyle. When Alice was notified she was overcome with grief and reportedly became delirious. An autopsy was performed, and though the authorities tried to keep the results secret, the press soon learned that Lillie had likely been murdered to hide the fact that she was seven months pregnant.

Lillie was, by all accounts, a very attractive woman, with dark brown hair and bluish-gray eyes. She had a good reputation in Webster, and although she had many friends, both male and female, she had told no one of her condition and was not known to be on intimate terms with any man. Alice was also highly esteemed in town and two girls were almost always seen together. They both had lovely singing voices and had both appeared on stage in an amateur production of *The Chimes of Normandy*. Alice insisted that she did not know the identity of Lillie's lover and had not even known that she was pregnant.

Webster's chief of police knew from the start that the case was beyond his abilities and sent for the Massachusetts State Detective Force to aid in the investigation. The detectives worked in the utmost secrecy, keeping any clues they uncovered away from the press. At the same time, the case had become a national story and reporters, hungry for news and lacking in official cooperation, began

Follow

Follow my blog with Bloglovin

THE NATIONAL NIGHT STICK.

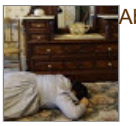
Crime, Eccentricity and
the Sporting Life
in 19th Century America
& Confessions of Jonathan Pratt

Murder List

19th Century American Murders

Popular Posts

The Killing of Bill The Butcher


Abby Borden Crime Scene

Katie Hood's Fate.

Her Miserable End.

Lizzie Borden Took an Axe...Or Did She?

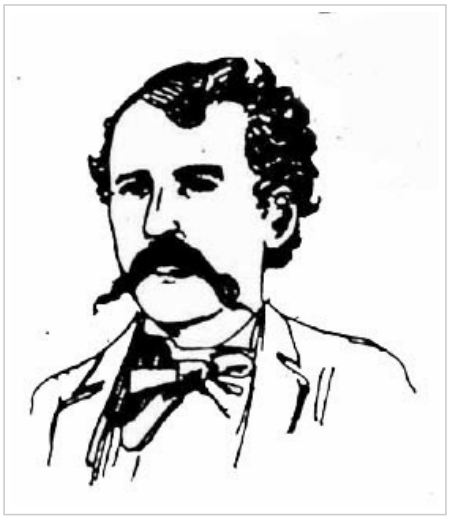
A Murderer's Death Dance.

Unsolved Massachusetts.

The Smuttynose Murders

The Worst Woman on Earth.

reporting all of the local rumors. It was reported that the Cowie household was not as harmonious as it first appeared. Lillie and her uncle Dixon had not been on speaking terms for several months prior to her disappearance. Fannie Wheeler, a close friend of Lillie's said that Lillie was planning to move out of her uncle's house. She was frightened of his violent behavior when drunk.



Dixon R. Cowie

It was rumored that Alice not only knew of her sister's condition but also knew the identity of her betrayer. This was vehemently denied by the detectives who told reporters they believed that Alice did not know that Lillie was pregnant. Reporters trying to uncover the identity of the man who had impregnated Lillie learned that she had been close to Isadore Nickel, a clothing merchant who had opened a temporary store in Webster and had left the town in August. Some other possible suitors were named but there was no evidence to name anyone as Lillie's seducer.

The police investigation was moving in a different direction. An analysis of the contents of Lillie's intestines showed traces of oil of tansy, a drug used to induce a miscarriage. Lillie had apparently attempted to abort the baby and the police were looking for the doctor who prescribed the drug. Meanwhile several witnesses reported seeing a carriage speeding along Oxford Road the night of September 1, near where the body was found. Pat O'Day, a Worcester detective who was not actively working the case told the *New York Herald* that Worcester County was notorious for its large number of "lying-in hospitals" – private houses where abortions were performed. O'Day believed that Lillie was taken to one of them and had died as a result of an overdose of chloroform.

Reporters were looking for a mysterious "Dr. Smith" who had checked into a Webster hotel the night of Lillie's disappearance and left the following day. They were also seeking information on a Webster stable owner who had sold his establishment and left town shortly after the murder. But in spite of an abundance of speculation, the truth was still out of reach and by the middle of October the case had grown cold and the press was making comparisons of Lillie's murder to those of Jennie Cramer and Rose Ambler – recent New England murders that remained unsolved.

Then on October 31 a clue from El Paso, Texas began to heat things up again. The Webster postmaster received a letter from an El Paso plantation owner who had recently hired an Irishman from Massachusetts. When the subject of Lillie Hoyle was raised—the story had been front page news throughout the country—the Irishman had betrayed a great deal off knowledge in the matter. In fact he gave a full account of the crime, laying the blame on her uncle, Dixon Cowie, and claiming that he, himself, had been hired to conceal the body. He was paid $50 and told to go Little Rock where he would receive $150 more. The Massachusetts detectives believed that the Irishman was the Webster hostler who had left town suddenly after the murder.

Nothing conclusive came from this clue either and the case went cold again for another six months. Then on May 4, 1888 the police arrested Dixon R. Cowie for the murder of his niece, Lillie Hoyle. Cowie and his wife had moved to Darien, Connecticut and appeared to be more prosperous than they had been in Webster. The newspapers speculated that he, too, had been paid for his role in the murder. Cowie agreed to return to Massachusetts without the need for extradition.

On the same day, another arrest was made in New York City. Thomas B. McQuaid, a student at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, and former resident of Webster,

The Meeks Family Murder

American Murder Ballads

The Modern Cain and Abel
Polly Williams
Polly Williams (poem)
The Murder of Polly Williams (poem)
The Lost Miners
Dunbar, the Murderer
Dr. Burdell, or The Bond Street Murder
The Bellevue Baby Mrs. Cunningham's Adopted
Pearl Bryan I
Pearl Bryan II
Pearl Bryan III
Lydia Sherman
The Indiana Hero (aka Fuller & Warren)
The Mournful and Pathetic Ballad on the Murder of John Love
Meeks Family Murder
Midnight Murder of the Meeks Family
Ewing Brooks
The Arsenic Tragedy
Poor Ellen Smith
The Stokes Verdict
The Harry Hayward Song
The Knoxville Girl
The Ballad of Frankie Silver
Delia
Delia's Gone
Leaving Home
Frankie and Albert
Frankie and Johnny
Suncook Town Tragedy
Tom Dooley
Alice Mitchell and Freddy Ward
Fall River Hoedown
OMIE WISE
Stack O'Lee Blues
Billy Lyons and Stack O'Lee

About Me

Profile

Fight Internet Censorship!

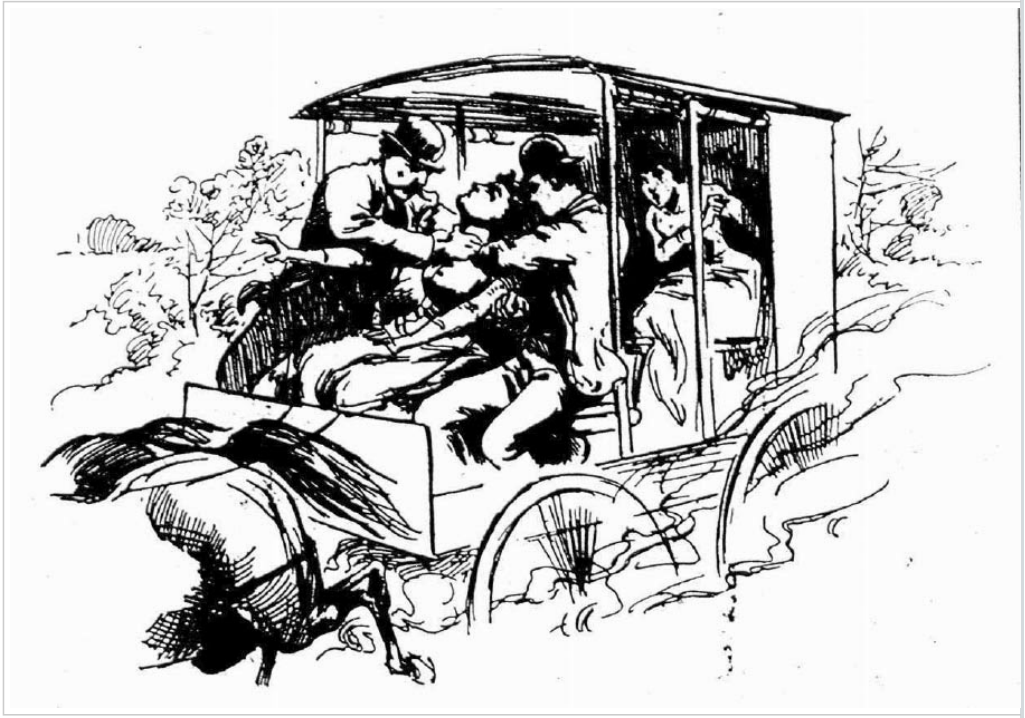
Massachusetts was arrested for the murder of Lillie Hoyle. It was alleged that McQuaid had been intimate with Lillie and killed her to cover up her pregnancy. McQuaid was less cooperative than Cowie, and remained in custody in New York while extradition papers were filed.

Thomas B.McQuaid

The detectives were reluctant to reveal the evidence against the two men, but the newspapers correctly surmised that Alice Hoyle had changed her story. After months of denying any knowledge of the murder or of her sister's pregnancy, Alice Hoyle now admitted that she had been party to a conspiracy against Lillie that had included Dixon Cowin and Thomas McQuade. The plan had been to persuade Lillie to have an abortion, by force if necessary, and the result had been her death.

Tearfully, Alice told the grand jury that her uncle had raped Lillie on numerous occasions and had tried, unsuccessfully to assault her as well. Lillie had also been consensually intimate with Thomas McQuaid and they did not know who was responsible for her pregnancy. McQuaid's family was powerful and prominent in Worcester County and he was anxious to avoid scandal. Cowin wanted to avoid scandal as well, but was also motivated by the large sum of money McQuaid was offering for his help. Alice joined the plot because she was in love with Thomas McQuaid and would do anything he asked. The three met in a room above McQuaid's father's wholesale liquor store to make their plans.

The night of September 1, Lillie had not left the house, but was in the kitchen of Cowie's house where McQuaid was trying to convince her to have an abortion. They went over it repeatedly but Lillie refused to agree. Cowie sent out for some beer and when it arrived made sure that Lillie's glass was always full. She became drunk but still would not relent. Then they applied the chloroform—Alice could not remember if she or her uncle had first put the saturated cloth to Lillie's mouth—and while McQuaid held the horse, Cowie and Alice carried her, unconscious, to the wagon.



They planned to take her into the woods and perform the operation there. Lillie sat in the front seat wedged between Cowie and McQuaid and Alice sat in the back as they drove down Oxford Road. Suddenly, Lillie awoke from her stupor making a loud, piteous cry. From fear of discovery both men grabbed at her throat. This action so startled Alice that she screamed then fainted. When she came to

History/Crime Blogs

ExecutedToday.com
9 hours ago

Nobody Move!
15 hours ago

True Crime Historian
1 day ago

The Rap Sheet
1 day ago

Strange Company
1 day ago

Dead Guys In Suits
1 week ago

History and Women
2 weeks ago

Soapy Smith's Soap Box
2 weeks ago

The World of Edgar Allan Poe
3 weeks ago

Morbid Anatomy
3 weeks ago

Scandalous Women
1 month ago

Ann Marie Ackermann's author website
2 months ago

Civil War Medicine (and Writing)
7 months ago

Early American Crime
1 year ago

History Confidential
1 year ago

Lizzie Borden: Warps and Wefts
2 years ago

History in the Raw (The bare facts of history that you don't get to read very often)
2 years ago

YesterYear Once More
3 years ago

The Virtual Dime Museum

History Press Blog

Coming Soon

Phoebe Paulin
Red-nosed Mike
Evelina Bliss
Daniel D. Farmer
Christopher Wilcox
Lee Teep
Mary Catherine Richards
E. M. Dalton

William Martin
Charles Marlow

grabbed at her throat. This action so startled Alice that she screamed then fainted. When she came to her senses she saw that her sister was dead. The men carried her body away and hid it in the corn crib. They returned home and Alice waited until the following day to report Lillie missing.

Several witnesses were able to somewhat corroborate Alice's story. Mrs. Taylor recalled seeing Lillie the night before the murder conversing with a man she believed was Thomas McQuaid. Their voices were raised and Mrs. Taylor heard Lillie say, "I'll die before I do it." A number of people saw the speeding wagon the night of September 1, and most importantly, Mrs. Wilhelmina Roache heard Alice's scream.

Arraignment: October 1, 1888

Cowie and McQuaid where held in the Worcester House of Correction for another six months before their official arraignment. On October 1, 1888 both men pled not guilty and while their attorneys pushed for a speedy trial, the government was not ready to proceed. They were having trouble locating one of their witnesses, and though they would not say who it was, the press soon learned that Mrs. Wilhelmina Roche had left Webster and was living in Providence, Rhode Island. She was now claiming that she recognized Dixon Cowie as one of the men in the wagon but, though she did not recognize the other man, she knew he was not Thomas McQuaid. She also denied being paid to leave town.

Alice Hoyle's testimony was under attack outside of court. The *Worcester Telegram* was claiming that their reporters ascertained beyond a doubt that Lillie Hoyle died in a house in Webster where she was undergoing an abortion. Five people were present at the time and none of them were Dixon Cowie or Thomas McQuaid.

Aftermath:

On November 15, it was announced that Cowie and McQuaid were to be released without bail. Though the charges had not been dropped, the government did not have enough evidence to try the men. Alice Hoyle had changed her story again; she now, once again claimed that she knew nothing about Lillie's death. The Attorney General would not release the details of Alice's latest version but said it was different than her original story and different than the one she told the grand jury and included some people not previously mentioned in connection with the case.

Since the murder, Alice Hoyle had been living with another uncle, Andrew Hoyle, and had not been working. The *Boston Herald* speculated that the story Alice told the grand jury may have been an attempt by Alice and her uncle to claim the $500 reward offered by the town and her recanting may have been paid for by Thomas McQuaid's father.

Cowie and McQuaid were never tried and no other arrests were made, but that's not quite the end of the story. In March 1891, Mrs. Andrew Hoyle came forward with another version of Lillie's murder as told to her by Alice Hoyle. Mrs. Hoyle was somewhat bitter at this point because her husband of thirty years had left her to live in sin with his niece, Alice, first in Rhode Island then "out west," though it was believed they hadn't gone any further west than Worcester County. While Alice was living there, Mrs. Hoyle had caught them together several times. Andrew and Alice had moved out about eighteen months earlier and more recently Andrew sold the house and furniture leaving his wife with nothing.

This fourth Alice Hoyle story was actually her first, told privately to her aunt and uncle shortly after the murder. She told them that she, herself, had chloroformed Lillie and Cowie and McQuaid had disposed of the body. Both girls, though quite promiscuous, wanted to marry Tom McQuaid. He told Alice that he wanted to marry her but could do nothing until Lillie's pregnancy was resolved. Alice resolved it by killing her sister. Andrew Hoyle, desperate to save his niece from the gallows and his family from scandal coached Alice and helped create the story she would tell the police. In the process they fell in love.

Anson Bunker
William Kemmler
Alice Meaker
Reyes Baca
John G. Van Nest
Mariweather Lewis
James Brady
Ella Speed

Labels

1600s 1700s 1790s 1800s 1810s 1820s 1830s 1840s 1850s 1860s 1870s 1880s 1890s 1900 Abortion Adultery African Americans Alabama Alaska Albany Alcohol arson Art Assassination Axe Murder Ballad Baltimore Beating Benders Betrayal Bigamy Blackmail Blows from a hammer Blows to the head Boiled Book Boston Boxer Broken neck Brooklyn Bully Burglary Burned California Cannibalism Chicago Chiciago Childbirth Chinese Chloroform Chopping Christmas Cincinnati Cleric Clubbing Colorado Coming Soon Compilation Confession Conman Connecticut Conspiracy Cremation Cuban Cult De Quincey Deathbed Confession Decapitation Defenestration Delaware Dismemberment Dissolved Documentary Dropped down a trap door Drowning Editorial Exoneration Factory Fall River Family Famous Attorneys Fight Fire Florida Fratricide Fraud Freemasonry gambling Gangs Gay Georgia Ghosts Guest Blogger Gunshot H.H. Holmes Halloween Hanging Hoax Honor Hypnotism Illinois Indian Territory Indiana Insanity Insult Insurance Iowa Jack the Ripper Jealousy Kansas Kentucky Kidnapping Knocked off a horse Lafcadio Hearn Legend Lesbian Little Murders Lizzie Borden London Louisiana Lynching Maine Mariticide Maryland Massachusetts Matricide Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Murder and Mayhem in Essex County Murder Pamphlets Murders Mutilation Nebraska New Feature New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New Orleans New York New York City News Newspapers North Carolina Ohio Pardon Patricide Pennsylvania Philadelphia Phrenology Pictures Piracy Poe Poem Poisoning Politics Poll Pregnancy Preview Prison Prostitution Pushed down stairs Quebec Rape Religion Revenge Review Rhode Island Robbery Schoolgirl Secret Societies Seduction Serial Killer Shooting Slashing Slavery South Carolina Spiritualism Spouse St. Louis Stabbing Statistics Strangulation Suffocation suicide Summary Supreme Court Temporary Insanity Tennessee Texas The Bloody Century Theatre Theft Treachery Trunk Murder Unsolved Uxoricide Vermont Virginia Voodoo Washington DC Website West Virginia Whipping Wisconsin Witchcraft Women Woolfolk Murders

Blog Archive

they fell in love.

The *Boston Herald* promised that new arrests were imminent but they never materialized. The story emerged a couple more times in the years that followed, always with “imminent arrests” but no one was ever arrested and eventually the story of Lillie Hoyle’s murder faded away completely.

Sources:

"A Foul Murder." *Boston Daily Advertiser* 21 Sep 1887: 1.
"Murder Mystery at Webster." *Boston Herald* 21 Sep 1887: 5.
"Cruelly Murdered." *New York Herald* 22 Sep 1887: 7.
"Fair Lillie Hoyle." *Worcester Daily Spy* 22 Sep 1887: 1.
"Lillie at Camp White." *New York Herald* 23 Sep 1887: 4.
"The Lillie Hoyle Case." *New Haven Register* 26 Sep 1887: 3.
"Lillie Hoyle's Fate." *National Police Gazette* 8 Oct 1887.
"Lillie Hoyle." *National Police Gazette* 8 Oct 1887: 6.
"Lillie Hoyle's Sad Fate." *New York Herald* 11 Oct 1887: 5.
"Lillian Hoyle's Slayer." *New York Herald* 15 Oct 1887: 3.
"Lillie Hoyle." *The National Police Gazette* 15 Oct 1887: 3.
"Lillie Hoyle's Murder." *Boston Daily Advertiser* 1 Nov 1887: 1.
"The "Webster Mystery"." *New Haven Register* 5 May 1888: 1.
"Lillie's Uncle Arrested." *New York Herald* 6 May 1888: 18.
"For the Lilla Hoyle Murder." *Boston Herald* 6 May 1888: 4.
"Confeassed." *The National Police Gazette* 26 May 1888: 7.
"Lillie Hoyle's Murder." *Worcester Daily Spy* 2 Oct 1888: 1.
"Alice Hoyle Recants." *Boston Herald* 10 Oct 1888.
"She Was Not Murdered." *Trenton Evening Times* 15 Oct 1888: 1.
"Stranger than Fiction." *Boston Herald* 16 Nov 1888: 2.
"Lilla Hoyle's Death." *Boston Herald* 19 Mar 1891: 1.

Posted by Robert Wilhelm

Labels: 1880s , Abortion , Chloroform , Jealousy , Massachusetts , Rape

0 comments :

Post a Comment

► 2017 (2)
► 2016 (53)
► 2015 (53)
▼ 2014 (55)
► December (5)
► November (6)
► October (4)
► September (4)
► August (5)
► July (4)
► June (4)
► May (5)
► April (4)
▼ March (5)
Fanaticism and Murder.
The Land of Undiscovered Murders.
The Webster Mystery.
19th Century Serial Killers.
The Corn Field Murder.
► February (5)
► January (4)
► 2013 (52)
► 2012 (57)
► 2011 (62)
► 2010 (58)
► 2009 (38)

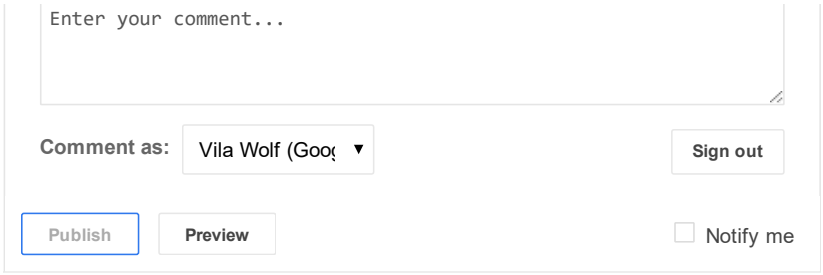
Blog Lists

Top 40 Private Eye Blogs

The 50 Best American History Blogs

Great History Sites

Statistics



Links to this post

Create a Link

Newer Post Home Older Post

© Copyright 2009-2016 Robert Wilhelm All Rights Reserved

Thief in Germany drives tractor through wall, steals safe

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 26, 2017

A tractor stands in front of a damaged house after it broke through the wall in Buende, north-western Germany, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017. Unknown intruders steered the tractor into the house and broke through the wall in order to steal a safe. The residents were not injured. (Nord-West-Media TV/dpa via AP)

BERLIN (AP) — Police in northwestern Germany are searching for a brazen thief — or thieves — who knocked down the wall of a house with a tractor and made off with a safe.

Police say the tractor was used early Thursday morning to bash down the wall of the home in the town of Buende, west of Hannover, according to the dpa news agency.

The thief or thieves grabbed the safe and fled, and the John Deer farm tractor was left halfway inside the house.

Authorities say the home's residents weren't harmed in the robbery but refused to say what was being kept in the safe or to give any further information because of the ongoing investigation.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

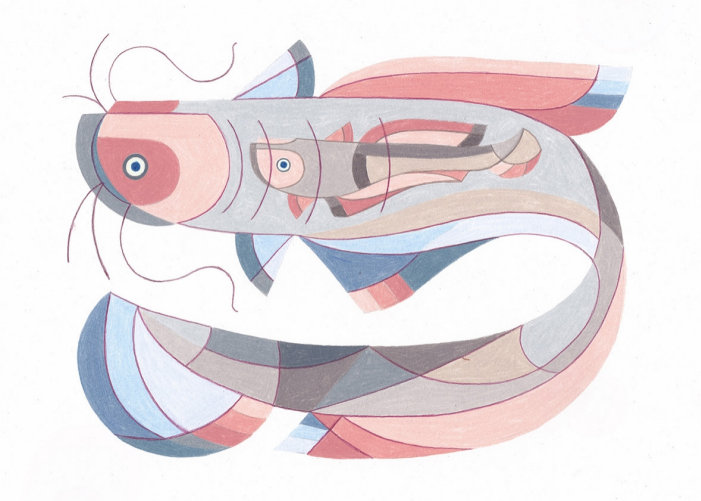
This History of Cannibalism Is So Captivating That You'll Want to Devour It With a Nice Chianti

slate.com

Article from THE Slate BOOK REVIEW

This history of species eating their own kind is so captivating that you'll want to devour it with a nice Chianti.

By Libby Copeland



cannibalism illo.

Maddie Edgar

According to cannibalism researcher Bill Schutt, the idea of people eating people is always lurking somewhere in the collective Western id, one of those tops-all taboos that manages to revolt and captivate in equal measure. I'd argue it's more horrifying a concept than incest, bestiality, ritual dismemberment, and that thing called coprophilia where people are really into poop. Our collective push-pull response to cannibalism explains our fascination with Jeffrey Dahmer, Schutt says, and also why Hannibal Lector is considered one of the greatest screen villains in movie history. We can't look away, even when we want to.

Now Schutt's new book, *Cannibalism*, which explores the practice across the animal kingdom, argues that we can actually learn a lot from observing any species that sometimes eats its own kind—including our own. Cannibalism has much to teach us about evolution, disease, racism, and even familial sacrifice and love. And it also, unsurprisingly, makes for delectable reading.

Schutt, a researcher at the American Museum of Natural History, writes that the scientific community's understanding of cannibalism in the animal kingdom has changed in recent decades. Once thought of as aberrant behavior in response to extreme situations involving starvation or captivity, cannibalism is now understood to be a characteristic that varies from freakish to downright common depending on the species. It serves "a variety of functions," Schutt writes, and there are even "examples in which an individual being cannibalized receives a benefit." Spadefoot toad tadpoles eat other tadpoles. Some snail mothers lay two sets of eggs—one intended to hatch and the other intended to be eaten by those who hatch. (Schutt calls these "kids' meals.") Cichlid fish that practice mouthbrooding, in which the parents protect their eggs and babies from predators by carrying them around inside their mouths, sometimes get hungry and swallow their own children. Whoops! In what Schutt calls "an extreme act of parental care," black lace-weaver spider moms call their hungry babies over and allow their children to eat them alive.

Among invertebrates, there are rules of thumb: Females cannibalize more often than males; the old and young are the first to go. And the practice continues further up the food chain, as well, though in mammals it's less common.

"Cannibalism occurs in every class of vertebrates, from fish to mammals," Schutt writes. Rabbit, mouse, and hedgehog moms sometimes eat their young when there's too many in a litter for the food available or when babies are born dead or deformed. Among chimpanzees, our closest relatives, adults of both sexes have been known to kill and eat babies unrelated to them in response to hunger, dwindling resources, and even, perhaps, a desire for sex. (Jane Goodall observed that chimpanzee moms whose babies were killed and eaten by adults from another community were "likely to come into oestrus within a month or so" and would then be available for "recruitment.")

My favorite section deals with the preposterous and rococo cannibalism that is part of the sexual practices of redback spiders.

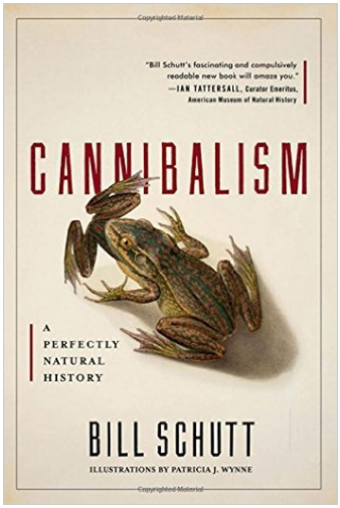
Schutt's chapters on cannibalism among humans are the most fascinating, though it's a tough subject to study systematically. Human don't exist in the wild; cultural beliefs get in the way of us expressing behavior that might

or might not come naturally to us. And it's hard to know how far back our cultural taboos related to human-eating go; if ancient peoples were devouring one another's livers with a nice Chianti, they weren't writing it down. Schutt traces the cannibalism-is-bad concept through Western literature and fairy tales; in the latter, he writes, child-chomping ogres sometimes served as the ultimate morality police—behave or be eaten. He explores cannibalism as an act of last resort in a disturbing chapter about the ill-fated Donner Party, titled "The Worst Party Ever."

But, as Schutt points out, we are discriminating about what we call cannibalism. Historical claims about savages eating one another are sometimes wildly hyperbolic, or lacking in proof, Schutt finds. Accusations are often undergirded by racism and opportunism. When Spain was exploring and exploiting the Caribbean during the 1500s, a 1510 papal decree that Christians were morally justified in punishing cannibals meant that on "islands where no cannibalism had been reported previously, man-eating was suddenly determined to be a popular practice." Yet Renaissance-era Europeans who would have been disgusted by reports of people-eating rituals in faraway places nonetheless practiced what Schutt called medicinal cannibalism. "Upper-class types and even members of the British Royalty 'applied, drank or wore' concoctions prepared from human body parts," Schutt writes. And blood was consumed to treat epilepsy:

> So popular was this practice that public executions routinely found epileptics standing close by, cup in hand, ready to quaff their share of the red stuff.

Schutt suggests that this cultural myopia is the reason we don't label as cannibalism, say, the contemporary fringe practice of moms eating their placentas after giving birth. The tissue is "derived from the fetus," after all. Schutt travels to Texas to take up a home schooling mom of 10 on an offer to eat her placenta. Fried in a sauté pan with garlic and onion, Claire's placenta looks like liver, chews like veal, and tastes like chicken gizzard.



cannibalism.

So what does cannibalism look like in a culture that doesn't attach as much stigma to it? Like many other peoples, the Chinese practiced survival cannibalism during wars and famines; an imperial edict in 205 B.C. even made it permissible for "starving Chinese" to exchange "one another's children, so that they could be consumed by non-relatives." But, according to historical sources cited by Schutt, the Chinese also practiced "learned cannibalism." In Chinese books written during Europe's Middle Ages, human flesh was occasionally cited as an exotic delicacy. In times of great hunger or when a relative was sick, children would sometimes cut off their flesh and prepare it in a soup for their elders. One researcher found "766 documented cases of filial piety" spanning more than 2,000 years. "The most commonly consumed body part was the thigh, followed by the upper arm;" the eyeball was banned by edict in 1261.

This is dark stuff to contemplate, which may be why my favorite portion of the book deals with the preposterous and rococo cannibalism that takes place as part of the sexual practices of redback spiders. Schutt's wry tone is well-suited to this scientific retelling, and I found myself reading portions of the book aloud to my husband (although I might have enjoyed it more because it's not the female who has her innards chewed out).

Basically, among redback spiders, the female is five times as large as the male, which contributes to a certain power imbalance. The male approaches, with perhaps not as much trepidation as might be called for, and tries to get the attention of his lady lover by bouncing around and waving his legs. Courtship continues with some "abdominal vibration" and some "epigynal scraping" and something called "Gerhardt's position 3" (it sounds complicated, but there are step-by-step illustrations if you want to try it), and all of this is followed by the male performing a slow somersault in the middle of copulation. At this point the female vomits on the male and consumes his abdomen as they mate. He walks away, comes back for more (fool!), and as they resume copulation, she resumes eating him—"eventually snorking up his now enzyme-liquefied innards like a spider-flavored Slurpee."

Why does the male bother? There appears to be an evolutionary advantage. Scientists have found that cannibalized males "copulated longer and fathered more offspring than non-cannibalized males." So there's that. Nature wants what it wants.

Cannibalism by Bill Schutt. Algonquin.

Slate Group Panoply

Slate is published by The Slate Group, a Graham Holdings Company. All contents © 2017 The Slate Group LLC. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Tourist mauled by three tigers after climbing into zoo enclosure

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukSunday 29 Jan 2017 4:08 pm

Warning: Some readers may find these images distressing.

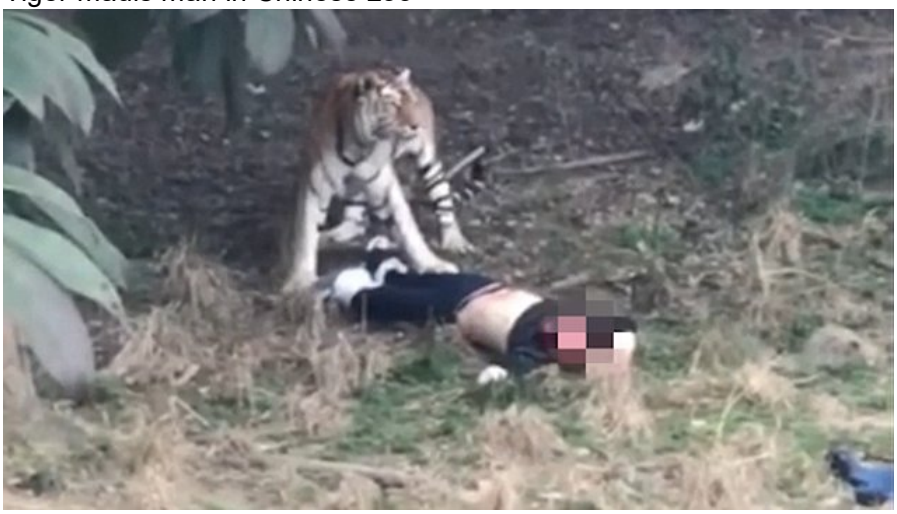
A tourist has allegedly been mauled to death by three tigers in front of his wife and child, witnesses say.

A tourist has allegedly been mauled to death by three tigers in front of his wife and child, witnesses say.

The visitor reportedly climbed into the enclosure and walked towards the animals as they were being fed at Youngor Wildlife Park in China, shortly before 2.30pm today (6.30am GMT),

But as he approached them, the tigers launched at the man leaving him in agony as they sunk their paws into him.

Tiger mauls man in Chinese zoo



Horrific footage shows the tiger launching at the man and repeatedly mauling him.

They then bite into his head and neck and rip off his clothes, leaving him face down on the ground in just his pants.

One of the tigers can then be seen dragging the man away by his foot.

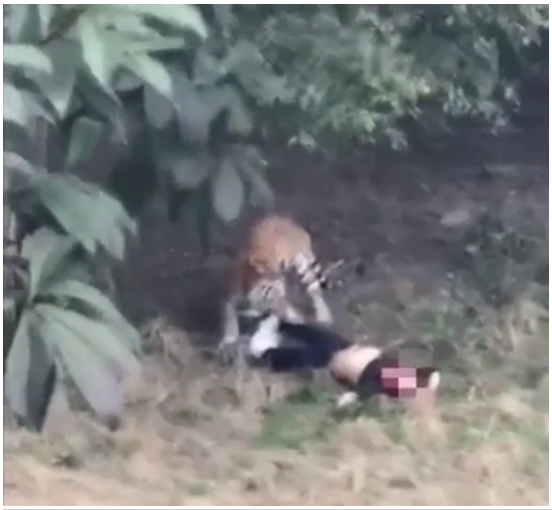
, the tiger was shot dead after attempts at frightening the animals away with firecrackers and water canons failed.

The man was rushed to hospital in East China's Zhejiang Province but it is unclear whether he survived the attack.

There are conflicting reports with some local media reporting he died while others claiming he is still being treated.

One witness told the South China Morning Post: 'I saw the tiger mauling the person, whose face was covered with blood. Every time he sat up, the tiger pushed him down again.'

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

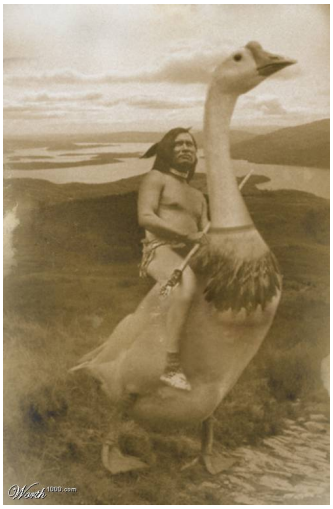


/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Thundergoose

Posted by: Loren Coleman on January 31st, 2008

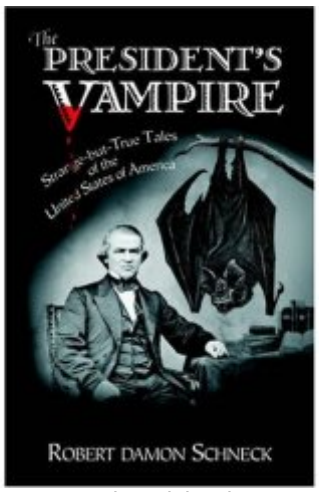
Do extraordinarily large geese exist? Is there a Thundergoose out there?



thundergoose1

Sure, you are going to find a history of photographic hoaxes, such as the old postcard pictured above, with real people pictured on top of big geese, but I'm talking about an actual case of an oversized goose.

This article was discovered by Robert Schneck (the author of The President's Vampire: Strange-but-True Tales of the United States of America) and exclusively shared with Cryptomundo. Appreciation to Schneck for his contribution.



schneck book

Schneck humorously dubbed this critter "Thundergoose" in our email exchange, and that seems to be a fitting name.

The date of the *Lake County Times*, Hammond, Indiana, newspaper is Friday, November 26, 1926.

Although the articles is not very clear, Robert Schneck transcripted the following text of what he could see from the article:

Huge Goose Brought Down Along Canal

[photograph of large white goose]

WHITING, Nov. 2[?]– The goose pictured above, said to be one of the largest ever killed in this vicinity, was bagged by Edward Dangler, local sportsman and hunter.

The goose, which stands 5 feet 6 1/2 inches and measures 7 feet 4 inches from wing tip to tip, and weights [sic] 24 1/2 pounds, is pure white and took ten shots from the rifle of Dangler (left) and his companion, Thomas J. Sullivan (right), before he was brought down.

> “On the morning of Nov. 12,” said Mr. Dangler, “we started out bright and early along the East Chicago Canal, thinking we might have a shot or two. After waiting several hours, and not having much luck, all of a sudden we were startled to see this huge bird flying over our heads at what could not have been more than an altitude of 75 feet [not punctuated]
>
> There were several other hunters around, including a woman, but we proved to be the lucky shots. Hunters in this region, old-timers who know the lay of every foot of ground here, say that never in the history of their lives have seen such a wonderful bag. [This is the way it’s written and punctuated.]
>
> The vicinity in which the bird was brought down, along the canal is a veritable hunting spot for duck hunters every year. [Second comma is left out.]
>
> This region, which is the hub of the commercial world, having the Standard Oil company plant here as well as other industries, was all excited when it heard of the big shoot.
>
> Most sportsmen remarked ” Why go to Minnesota or Wisconsin when we have ducks here flying so low that you can knock hem [sic] down with a club?”

For the record, the Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) is a large white North American species of goose, which is usually no more than 25-31″ in size. The largest goose in North America is the giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), with a wingspan of 6 feet and weighing up to 20 pounds. Only swans are officially larger.

Are there Thundergeese flying about?

This entry was posted on Thursday, January 31st, 2008 at 5:00 am and is filed under Cryptomundo Exclusive, Cryptotourism, CryptoZoo News, Cryptozoologists, Cryptozoology, Evidence, Eyewitness Accounts, Photos, Thunderbirds, Winged Weirdies. You can follow responses via our RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is not allowed.

---

10 Responses to “Thundergoose”

1. eireman responds: January 31st, 2008 at 7:36 am

   OMG! That photo nearly made me spit out my morning Joe! That is the funniest thing I have seen in days. I think it’s the proud, upward gaze toward destiny that really brings on home the absurdity of a man saddled atop a giant goose.

2. Porkchop responds: January 31st, 2008 at 10:46 am

   I’m certainly not going to disparage IN hunters, but could this have been a swan? I don’t know how common swans are in Indiana, so I reserve the right to be wrong. It also says the bird was pure white, they would probably mention the swan’s black bill.

   The article also mentions shooting it with a rifle, rather than a shotgun (maybe that’s being nitpicky) but who hunts water fowl with rifles? But id’ing the man’s gun as a rifle, gives me just enough doubt.

Then again, those were different times. Every state I've lived in (Great Lakes) has had rules to plug your gun so you can only use three shells at a time, not the TEN that were used to bring this bird down.

3. Saint Vitus responds: January 31st, 2008 at 11:33 am

I'm convinced this bird was a Trumpeter Swan. They are not usually found in Indiana but have been seen there. According to the Sibley Guide: length 60 inches, wingspan 80 inches, weight 23 pounds.

4. red_pill_junkie responds: January 31st, 2008 at 2:50 pm

Those mean hunters killed **Mother Goose**! *Snif*

I hope Humpty Dumpty kicked their butts afterwards.

5. noobfun responds: January 31st, 2008 at 4:38 pm

Cowboys on jack rabbits and Native Americans on geese.

Certainly an odd postcard week.

6. dogu4 responds: January 31st, 2008 at 8:11 pm

We see gigantism occur in many species, our own included, as well as other abnormalities or rare morphs within populations. Considering that this incident reportedly encountered only one of these birds, perhaps a rare bird is almost an inevitablillty.

7. Alligator responds: January 31st, 2008 at 8:57 pm

The historic breeding range of the trumpeter swan included northern Indiana. In 1701 Governor Cadillac reported that swans in the Great Lakes region were as plentiful as "lilies among the rushes." That meant there were a lot of them. There were still a few nesting around the Great Lakes in the 1880s. By 1933 only 69 remained in the continental United States most in the Yellowstone area.

According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, a male trumpeter can reach up to 35 pounds in weight, stand over four feet high and have a wingspan of over seven feet. The tundra swan remained and is more common but is smaller, reaching only 20 pounds and standing three feet high with a wing span of 6 to 7 feet.

This bird may have been the last of his kind in the region and avoided being shot for 20 or 30 years, which is their life span. More likely, this "goose" was a mute swan. These are the swans of big city parks and were imported from Europe in the late 19th century. Some took up residence in the wild. Mute swans are only slightly smaller than the trumpeter but clearly within the size range of this "giant goose."

Remember that in 1926, most of these people were no longer familiar with swans in the wild. Unless they knew of them from city parks they might be inclined to call them a goose. Furthermore the reporter would probably call any big water bird a "goose" and a smaller one a "duck". We have a photograph from 1910 of a white pelican shot in our neighborhood on the

Missouri River. The hunters spread its wings and held it up in front of the local barber shop. The newspaper labeled it as a “giant goose.”

I wish we could see the picture of this particular bird. It could be a pelican if not a swan. It’s not an unknown species.

8. Bob Michaels responds: January 31st, 2008 at 9:30 pm

May the Goose be with you!

9. Artist responds: February 2nd, 2008 at 10:05 pm

This story gives me goose-bumps!

10. cryp-23 responds: April 11th, 2008 at 1:14 pm

I live along lake Michigan in wisconsin and I have seen both giant trumpeter swans and giant canada geese (giant being 5ft tall with a 7ft wing span) theres no dought in my mind its a large swan.

Copyright © 2005-2017, Cryptomundo. All rights reserved. |Top|
Cryptomundo is powered by

Copyright 2005-2017, Cryptomundo. All rights reserved - Seabeast Theme SB v.1.2.c (c) 2006-2017 Mike Cherim - http://green-beast.com/. All rights reserved.

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celebrity Install the new Firefox »

Search Search

Tech Home Reviews How To Deals Video Games Pogue Apple

der for apes? ch orangutans out computer ng

ociated Press February 1, 2017

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — How does a primate find a date when they're confined to an rban jungle?

Orangutans in a Dutch zoo may get a high-tech helping hand thanks to a research project that is being likened to a Tinder dating app for apes.

The research at the Apenheul primate park, on the outskirts of the Dutch city of Apeldoorn, is investigating the emotional responses of orangutans and bonobos to images of the same species they are shown on a touch screen.

Biologist Thomas Bionda said Wednesday the screen could help determine an ape's preference between prospective mates as part of a breeding program.

"We want to help our animals and maybe other zoos' animals to make a choice," Bionda said in a telephone interview. "Animals have to like each other."

Bionda hopes that having apes check out images on a computer screen could help determine the compatibility of a prospective pair.

In the meantime, the primate park has another problem — building an orangutan-proof touch screen. The screen in the primates' sleeping area was recently destroyed by a young female called Samboja.

View Reactions (23)

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celebrity Install the new Firefox »

Search Search

Tech Home Reviews How To Deals Video Games Pogue Apple

FEATURED

Apple

Apple CEO uses sofa analogy to explain Qualcomm lawsuit

Daniel Howley

D.C. outsiders get first White House briefing ‘Skype seats’

Olivier Knox

Pogue

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celebrity Install the new Firefox »

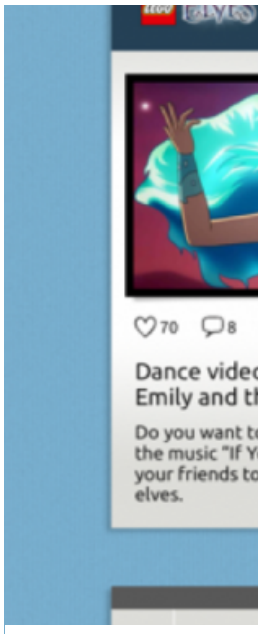
Search Search

Tech Home Reviews How To Deals Video Games Pogue Apple

Uber

The day Lyft was bigger than Uber

JP Mangalindan



Lego Life

Lego has fi

Daniel Howley

Pogue

EXCLUSIVE: Tufts professor invents a non-exploding battery that holds 2x as much power

David Pogue

Home Mail Flickr Tumblr News Sports Finance Celebrity Install the new Firefox »

Search Search

Tech Home Reviews How To Deals Video Games Pogue Apple

Tiny town's power surge fries computers, appliances, siding

yahoo.com

KRISTEN DE GROOT
Associated PressJanuary 27, 2017

The 911 calls started pouring in just after noon in the tiny western Pennsylvania town of Brookville. The electrical meter is on fire. The house siding is burning. My power strip is smoking. The computer is fried. The carpeting is singed. Our light bulb exploded.

A power company says a failed power line component was to blame for an electrical surge Jan. 20 in Brookville, population 4,000. When it was over, 500 to 1,000 residents were affected, said Tracy Zents, the director of Jefferson County's Department of Emergency Services.

"I've been doing this a little over 30 years, and this is definitely a first for me," Zents said. "We were fortunate that nobody was hurt."

The volume of calls quickly overwhelmed the local volunteer fire department 70 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, which had to call three other departments for help, Zents said.

Even the police department wasn't spared. The surge tripped the department's main office radio, so the initial emergency calls were missed, said Chief Jason Brown.

"Then all of a sudden I hear fire engines, so I turned on my handheld," Brown said. He quickly learned what happened, as fluorescent lights in the building next door started exploding in their sockets.

He said he doesn't know anyone on the east side of town who wasn't affected in some way.

"You go down the street and you see all these blackened meters," he said.

Scott Surgeoner, a spokesman for electric utility FirstEnergy, said Friday the problem started with a failed insulator on a power line. That failure caused a flash that spread to a feeder line to Brookville, and about 475 customers lost power. It was restored by 5 p.m. the same day, he said.

The cause of the failure isn't clear, but Surgeoner said it's not uncommon for insulators to fail after years of weather exposure.

"It's similar to an alternator in a car. Why does it fail after a few years? Mine might last for 10 years, but yours might last for five," he said. "Any equipment that is on a pole in the air and is subjected to weather 365 days a year, 24 hours a day is susceptible to failure."

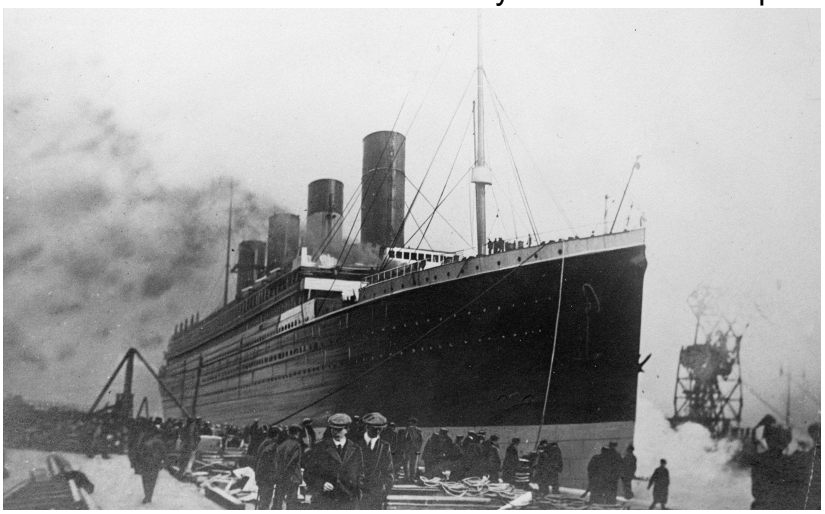
Any customers who feel FirstEnergy's local provider, Penelec, was negligent can file a claim with the company, and they will be reviewed on case-by-case basis, Surgeoner said. He's not sure if any have been received.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Titanic may not have been sunk by an iceberg after all

metro.co.uk

Simon Robb for Metro.co.ukSunday 1 Jan 2017 3:56 pm



More than 1,500 people were killed in the disaster (Picture: Getty Images)

It's been one of the biggest debated disasters for more than 100 years, but experts now believe that the RMS Titanic tragedy was not caused by just an iceberg.

Countless books, essays and a major Hollywood movie have all told the well known story that the 'unsinkable' ship collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean.

But a new theory has emerged that a huge fire was majorly responsible for the sinking of the ship, and the death of more than 1,500 passengers.

In April 1912, the largest passenger liner set off on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York – but it tragically never reached its destination.

Now fresh evidence indicates there was a fire in the ship's hull, which burned unnoticed for almost three weeks before that fateful night.

Engraving of the ship sinking (Picture: Getty)

Journalist Senan Molony studied rare photographs taken by the ship's chief electrical engineers before it left the shipyard in Belfast.

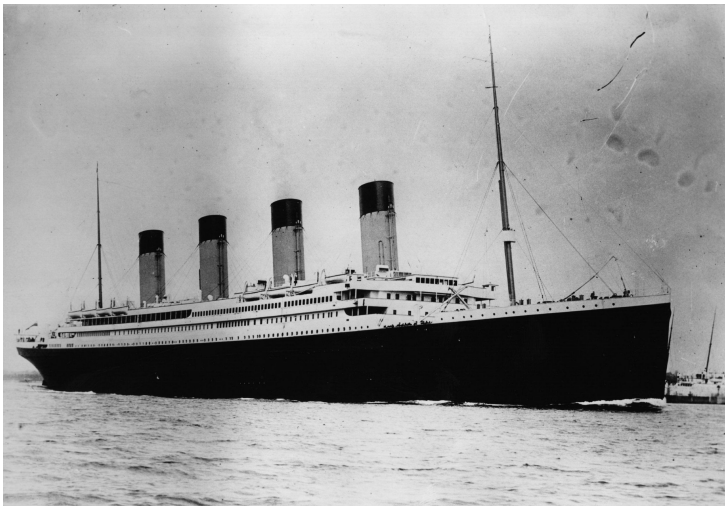
The expert, who has researched the Titanic for 30 years, spotted 30ft-long black marks, just behind where the ship's lining was struck by the iceberg.

'We are looking at the exact area where the iceberg stuck, and we appear to have a weakness or damage to the hull in that specific place, before she even left Belfast,' he said.

The marks were likely to have been caused by a fire in one of the boiler rooms, experts confirmed.

So when the ship hit the iceberg, the steel hull was too weak and immediately tore open.

It is claimed workmen were told to hide the damage from passengers (Picture: Getty)



Molony also claimed that the fire was kept under wraps and the ship was reversed in at the Southampton docks to prevent passengers from spotting the damage.

‘Nobody has investigated these marks before. It totally changes the narrative. We have metallurgy experts telling us that when you get that level of temperature against steel it makes it brittle, and reduces its strength by up to 75 per cent,’ he added.

The new information will be presented in a Channel 4 documentary, Titanic: The New Evidence tonight at 8pm.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Toilet Paper Bandit' takes cash, tissue from Texas tire store

upi.com

The "Toilet Paper Bandit" makes off with his ill-gotten tissues from a Texas tire store. Screenshot: WCTV

Jan. 23 (UPI) -- A burglar at a Texas tire store has been branded the "Toilet Paper Bandit" after cameras recorded him stealing cash and a four-pack of bathroom tissue.

Surveillance cameras at Crest Tires in Lubbock were recording Saturday night when a man broke into the store through the back door Saturday night and made his way to the cash register, where he stole more than $100 cash.

The man is seen going to a different area of the store, where he grabs a four-pack of toilet paper.

"Maybe they wanted to get a clean getaway, I don't know," store owner Wendy Houston joked to Everything Lubbock.

She said the man in the video was dubbed the "Toilet Paper Bandit" by her employees.

"They stole the toilet paper, which we're making fun of, which in all reality is sad, you know, because what if they really needed it?" she said.

Houston said there was about $1,000 worth of damage from the break-in.

"The damage they did to my door for a little bit of money left in the register, and toilet paper, is just not right," she said.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Badass of the Week: Tommy Prince

"He moved with absolute quiet because of the pair of moccasins he'd wear... sometimes, instead of killing the Germans, he'd steal something from them. Other times, he'd slit their throats and not make a sound."

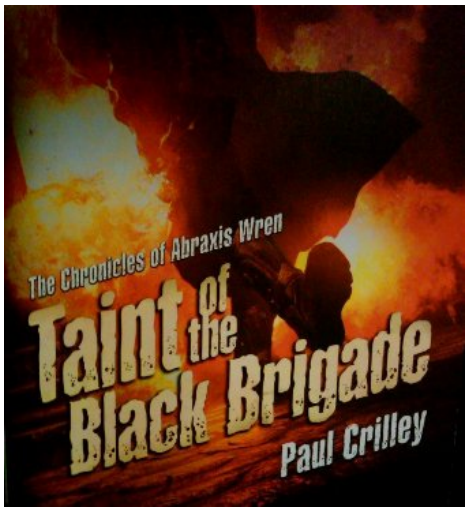
The national holidays of two North American countries are taking place this weekend, and, since it's not every day that 2/3rds of a continent gets involved in the whole fireworks/flag waving/beer chugging extravaganza of drunkenly patriotic awesomeness, I am personally planning to celebrate in the sort of universalist manner my unique geographic location allows me to – by driving to Vancouver tonight and celebrating Canada Day by slamming poutine gravy-cheese fries, sucker-punching a grizzly in the taint, and pretending I might somehow know any of the words to "God Save the Queen" (or whatever the hell they sing up there when they're pumped up about Canada), and then coming back to Seattle Monday to grill cheeseburgers, talk shit about the British Crown, and shotgun cans of Bud while sitting in an above-ground swimming pool on the 4th of July. And, since I can't adequately represent the sublime combination of cheap gunpowder, fermented barley, and deep-fried animal by-products through the medium of the Internet, I'll attempt to represent this badass duality of holidays in another way – by telling the story of an insane, over-the-top hero from the most hardcore joint military operation ever undertaken by the Canadian and American governments: Sergeant Tommy Prince of the 1st Special Service Brigade (aka "The Devil's Brigade").

Tommy Prince was born 25 October 1914 in the Canadian province of Manitoba. A member of the Brokenhead band of the Ojibwe Indian tribe, Prince was one in a long line of hardcore Native American badasses dating back to a time when most white guys thought that if they sailed their ships too far off the coast of Spain they'd fall into a bottomless pit and be devoured by Satan. As a young man, Prince dropped out of elementary school to help feed his family but hunting and tracking wildlife on the Reservation, gunning down buffalo and bringing home heaping armfuls of beef. Now, I really don't know shit about rural Manitoba, but when you go to the official website for the province the first two things you see are a cartoon buffalo and a giant fucking polar bear, so I think it's safe to assume this place is pretty hardcore, and that any twelve year-old who can go out in the woods there by himself for long stretches of time armed only with a rifle and a combat knife has to be seriously fucking intense. Prince was. According to his biography, this guy could move almost completely silently through any terrain, crawl on his belly through thick underbrush faster than most regular schmucks could walk upright through it, and could put five bullets through a playing card at 100 meters without blinking. He was also an expert in wilderness survival, tracking, and traveling long distances without food or rest. Oh, and he was also kind of a player – one time he got 60 stitches when some woman at a bar slashed him in the face with a broken beer bottle (presumably because he was already going home with five other hot babes and didn't feel like bringing her along).

In 1940, the 24 year-old Prince enlisted in the Canadian military, and his natural aptitude for doing badass shit in the middle of the fucking wilderness made him a prime candidate for some crazy new Weapon X-style program the mad scientists of the North American militaries were working on – specifically, the creation of a new unit of badass motherfuckers who could take on the most insane suicide missions Allied command could think of. Hardcore commandos ready for any mission, anywhere, anytime, in any part of the world, and ready to massacre totalitarian dickbags with any weapon larger than a thumbtack. Tommy was hand-selected for this joint Canadian and American unit, innocuously named the 1st Special Service Force, and was sent (along with the toughest wilderness experts in the Canadian and American armies) through intense training in the frozen tundras of rural Montana. Over the next couple months, these soon-to-be-elite commandos were trained in parachute assault tactics, hand-to-hand combat, knife fighting, stealth operations, reconnaissance, demolitions, and alpine warfare. Eventually known among the Germans and Italians as "The Black Devils" (because these guys would paint their faces black with shoe polish before going on night operations and garroting Fascists), the 1st SSF would go on to be one of the most hardcore military units of World War II – performing commando ops throughout Italy and France, sneaking into seemingly-impenetrable enemy bases and killing everyone out of

hand with knives or icepicks or what the fuck ever else they felt like carrying. This unit was so tough that when it was disbanded it eventually morphed into the 1st United States Army Special Forces (better known as the Green Berets) and the Canadian counter-terrorist Joint Task Force 2. Tarantino's *Inglorious Basterds* is (very loosely) based on the unit, and when the folks at Marvel went through and retconned a bunch of Wolverine's backstory they had him fighting Nazis as part of the SSF in WWII.

So saying that Tommy Prince was the most decorated warrior from this unit is kind of a big deal.



Note: The Black Devil's Brigade should not be confused with the Black Taint Brigade.

Early on in the Italian Campaign of 1943, the Devil's Brigade's primary objective was simple – get behind enemy lines and fuck shit up. Attack impenetrable mountain fortresses at night and kill everyone inside. Get into their base, kill their d00ds, then get as many of your guys out as you could. At the Battle of Monte La Difensa, the Devil's Brigade attacked a mountain base that had been unsuccessfully assaulted three times by full-scale attacks – the SSF climbed up the steepest part of the mountain in the middle of the night, broke into the fort, and destroyed EVERYTHING. The detachment assigned to the battle suffered a 77% casualty rate in the process, but the next morning the Allies were able to walk right up the hill into the installation like they were out on a weekend hike.

If Tommy Prince were a G.I. Joe, he would have been a cross between Snake Eyes and Tracker, and the big Native American quickly became the stuff of legends once stories of his balls-out attacks on enemy strongholds started getting around the unit. For instance, near the village of Majo, Prince single-handedly snuck up to the enemy front lines in the middle of the night, slipped into all of their fortified steel machine gun bunkers one-by-one, and killed everyone inside with a fucking Bowie knife. His mission was completely silent – the next morning, when the Germans at the top of the hill saw the Canadian and American infantry advancing across the field, they couldn't figure out why the hell the MG-42s weren't shooting at them. It was only after the battle that they'd realized it's because every single machine gun nest was ankle-deep in the blood of Tommy Prince's enemies.

Sometimes Prince would fuck with the Axis troops just for the hell of it – badass PSY-OPS Sam Fisher shit. Like, he'd sneak into an Italian town at night, break into the infantry barracks, and steal everyone's shoes off their feet while they were sleeping. Or he'd go into the SS Officers' quarters and kill every third guy while he slept in his bed – the rest of the guys would wake up the next morning to find the dude next to him was dead from a knife wound to the throat, and they'd be appropriately freaked the fuck out of their minds.

Another pretty badass event went down outside Anzio in 1944. Prince was scouting enemy positions, and he'd somehow found a way to run a 1500-meter telegraph wire all the way from Allied lines to a farmhouse 200 meters from the German artillery without being detected. The next morning, he used the telegraph to start calling in positions of German tanks and guns to American artillery, who proceeded to make it rain fireballs and shrapnel. Things were going great, people were getting gibbed apart all over the place, etc., but then all of a sudden the shelling abruptly stopped. Prince realized that a stray bomb had cut the telegraph wire, and now the Allied artillery wasn't getting his fire coordinates. While most people would have called it a day and gone home to collect his fucking medal of bravery, Prince decided, "Fuck it, I totally haven't killed enough Fascists for one

22 INCHES OF MAYHEM! At close quarters, with other weapons gone, you can whip out your foxhole shovel. The blade's sharp and pointed. The cross bar handle won't slip. Yes, it's a foxy shovel that loves a fight!

afternoon, so let's try to keep this thing rolling". This madman immediately went through the old farmhouse where he was hiding, found some clothes, changed his clothes so he looked like an Italian farmer, and then walked out into the field carrying a hoe and a rake. Calmly, unarmed, and in full view of the German patrols, Prince walked right to the break in the telegraph line, bent over to pretend to tie his shoes, and rejoined the wires right in front of the enemy soldiers. Then he stood up, shook his fist at the guards, make some veiled pun involving hoes, walked right back to the farmhouse, and went back to bombing the shit out of their Panzers.

Wolverine fighting Nazis with the Devil's Brigade.
I'm fairly confident that Prince's life was exactly like this in real life.

Prince once again performed amazing feats of badass in the Summer of 1944, when he was sent to southern France to scout enemy positions and troop locations. A few hours into his mission, Prince found some French resistance guys fighting the Germans, so he picked off the Nazis with a sniper rifle until they all got freaked out and ran for it. When Prince came down to talk to the French dudes, they told him that the fire was so intense that they'd thought they were being rescued by a company of at least 50 men, and they couldn't believe it was just this dude with his standard-issue rifle (Prince would later be nominated for the Croix de Guerre for this action). After almost accidentally winning the French government's highest award for bravery in combat, Prince went on to locate the German base, return to Allied lines, and then lead an all-out assault on the fortress that would result in the capture of 1,000 enemy Prisoners of War. Oh, and he did it all while crossing 50 miles (70km) into enemy territory, twice, on foot, without sleep or food or rest, over the course of one 72-hour session. For his actions he'd receive the Military Medal (the third-highest award for bravery offered by the British Army) and the Silver Star (the third-highest award for bravery offered by the American Army). He's one of only three people in history to get both those medals.

World War II ended, but life in Canada wasn't all that great for Native Americans in the 1940s, so when the Korean War broke out in 1950 Prince immediately re-enlisted as a Sergeant in the Canadian infantry and served two tours of duty even though he was already suffering from extremely painful arthritis in both his knees. Fighting with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Prince led commando raids into North Korean and Chinese camps – including one attack where he personally took 8 prisoners and stole two heavy machine guns. His regiment earned the United States Presidential Unit Citation for their defense of Kapyong (when they fought their way out after being completely surrounded by a full division of Chinese infantry), he was shot in the leg while defending The Hook, and he once got in trouble when he found a Canadian sentry asleep at his post and threw the guy in a fucking brutal sleeper hold to teach him a lesson about why you shouldn't pass out when you're on fucking guard duty unless you want to get your windpipe crushed.

Tommy Prince retired after the war, got married, had 5 kids, and in 1955 he jumped in a freezing river and single-handedly saved a man from drowning (proving that he could save lives just as spectacularly as he could take them). He is now remembered as the most decorated aboriginal war veteran in Canadian military history.

"All my life I wanted to do something to help my people recover their good name.
I wanted to show they were as good as any white man."

Links:

Canada.com

American Indian Source

Histori.ca

Wikipedia

Sources:

Horn, Bernd and John Scott Cowan. *Intrepid Warriors*. Dundurn, 2007.

Nadler, John. *A Perfect Hell*. Random House, 2007.

Sealey, D. Bruce and Peter Van De Vyvre. *Manitobans in Profile*. Penguin, 1981.

Watson, Brent Byron. *Far Eastern Tour*. McGill-Queen's, 2002.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Town's only snowplow driver quits, so residents grab shovels

yahoo.com

AP Associated PressJanuary 5, 2017

PARSONSFIELD, Maine (AP) — Residents of a tiny hamlet knew what they had to do when the only snowplow driver in town quit after a massive storm: They grabbed shovels and got to work.

The only plow truck driver for most of Parsonsfield quit after a storm dumped 25 inches of snow on the town on Dec. 30. Local officials described the lack of a plow as an emergency for the southern Maine town of about 1,900.

But residents volunteered to help pick up the slack, and the roads were close to fully cleared by Thursday afternoon, Select Board member Tiffany Brendt said. The Maine Department of Transportation, local plowing contractors and residents of neighboring towns also chipped in, she said.

An ice storm that arrived after the heavy snow didn't deter anyone, Brendt said.

"People got together in our town and went out, plowed, salted, sanded, pushed back the banks, and went back out after the ice storm to make sure everything was good," she said. "They just did it."

A spokeswoman for the town said earlier in the day that workers from the nearby town of Cornish also helped get the roads cleared.

Roads will be in good enough shape to collect trash and recycling Friday, the town's website said. The town is also working on a new long-term snowplow contract so it isn't left without a snowplow driver again, Brendt said.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man Allegedly Asks Girl Scouts To Trade Vodka For Cookies, Police Say

huffingtonpost.com

Bartering booze for Girl Scout cookies is pretty tasteless.

02/08/2017 05:34 pm ET
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post
Man tries to exchange Vodka for Girl Scout cookies

A request for Thin Mints has an Oklahoma man on thin ice with the law.

Police in Ardmore arrested 45-year-old Jerry Swanson on Saturday after he tried to barter some Girl Scout Cookies from some Girl Scouts at a local mall.

Swanson's sweet deal? He allegedly offered some vodka to the girls in exchange for the cookies, according to local station KXII. However, Swanson didn't actually have any alcohol on him at the time, Ardmore Police Captain Keith Ingle told the Huffington Post.

Bystanders called police because Swanson seemed intoxicated. "He did tell officers he had been drinking all day," Ingle said.

Ardmore Police Dept

When officers questioned Swanson, they said he seemed confused and disoriented based on various field sobriety tests.

"He was unsteady on his feet and basically had to place him in the police car and barely able to walk," Ingle told KXII.

Swanson was taken to the Carter County Jail and booked on a public intoxication charge.

Jail records show he was behind bars as of Wednesday afternoon.

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Traffic police stop 'Monkey King' driving bus full of mythological characters

shanghaiist.com

by Alex Linder in News on Feb 8, 2017 6:15 pm

journey_to_the_west_stopped.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped2.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped3.jpg

The legendary "Monkey King" was stopped at a routine police checkpoint in Jiyuan city, Henan province yesterday behind the wheel of a bus.

Officers only became more befuddled with the situation when they stepped onto the bus to find it full of mythological figures from the classic Chinese novel *Journey to the West*.

Police then ordered all of the various deities off the bus and asked the Monkey King to please hand over his license and registration.

Despite his reputation as an infamous trickster, Sun Wukong patiently answered officers' questions. It turns out that rather than immortals, the passengers were all in fact members of an acting troupe headed for the countryside to perform *Journey to the West* at a local temple fair.

After careful questioning, police let the "Monkey King" and his friends continue on their journey. Unfortunately, reports don't mention which way they were heading.

[Images via China News / Sina]

© 2003-2017 Gothamist LLC. All rights reserved. Terms of Use & Privacy Policy.

journey_to_the_west_stopped9.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped12.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped4.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped5.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped6.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped7.jpg

journey_to_the_west_stopped8.jpg

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Treasure hunter plans to land £1BILLION gold bullion haul

09:21 EST, 29 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Treasure hunter plans to land £1BILLION gold bullion haul by bringing 250-year-old British ship to the surface

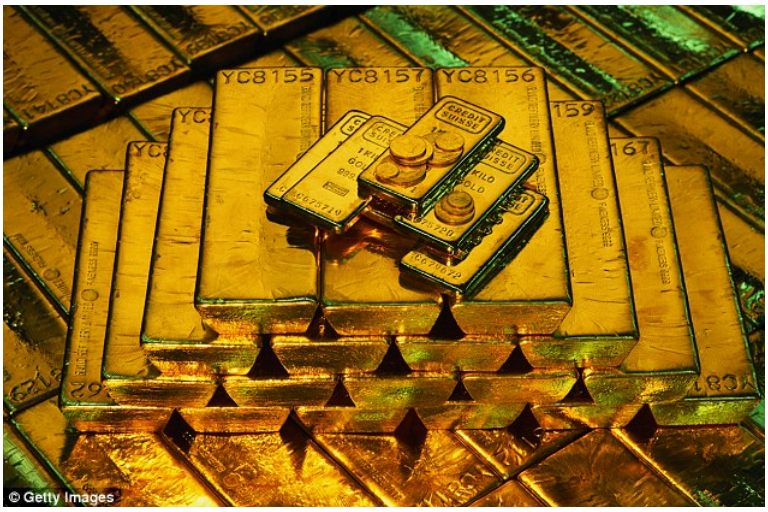
- **Ruben Collado hopes to resurrect Lord Clive, which sunk in 1763 near Uruguay**
- **He believes there is £1billion of gold bullion on board the sunken British ship**
- **He discovered the wreck in 2004 and is leading an operation to raise it**
- **Ship was built in Hull and was sent to South America to bring funds to military**

By Anthony Joseph for MailOnline

A treasure hunter plans to land £1billion by bringing a 250-year-old British ship back to the surface.

Ruben Collado, from Argentina, hopes to resurrect the Lord Clive, which sunk in 1763 off the coast of Uruguay.

He believes there is £1billion of gold bullion on board the sunken ship, which was named after Clive of India, and will begin his treasure hunt next month.



He believes there is £1billion of gold bullion on board the sunken ship, which was named after Clive of India, and will begin his treasure hunt next month

He discovered the wreck in 2004 and is leading an operation to raise it.

He told The Times: 'The imperial vessel could contain €1,200m in gold coins.

'And that is without considering goods such as rum, opium and silk stored in lead pipes.

'The important thing is to get these ships because they will give us the true magnitude of the story,' said Collado. 'This is the history of Latin America and the Spanish.'

The 64-gun vessel, which was built in Hull, sailed to South America for the East India Company to bring funds and personnel for British military campaigns.

But it was sunk by cannon fire during the Seven Years' War in an attempt to retake Colonia del Sacramento, a former colony of Britain's ally Portugal, which had been seized by the Spanish.

The sunken ship was named after Major General Robert Clive of India, who died in 1811

When the ship's captain Robert McNamara launched an attack, they were hit by a constant assault from the shore.

The wreck is just 16ft down and 380 yards off the coast, but the Spanish covered it in rocks to prevent it floating to the top.

A team of 80 divers and support men will be sent to recover the ship at the cost of £4million.

Comments (43)

The comments below have not been moderated.

Firenze, Florence, United States, about 3 hours ago

It's sink, sank, had sunk. The writer can't conjugate.

Tiseye, Tehachapi, United States, about 7 hours ago

He who dreams will find the means.

mort dog, Auckland, New Zealand, about 10 hours ago

Only 16 ft down and the Spanish dumped rocks on it! They would also have surely removed the gold.

MrSmiley, Sacramento, United States, about 4 hours ago

Absolutely correct.

leon ., Reading, about an hour ago

The majority of this info is " CONKERS "

NYCRealist, New York, United States, about 10 hours ago

And then spend decades in court because it's British property.

Kim Jong-Uns Stylist, Surveillanceton, Vatican, about 10 hours ago

Wait for me! I don't care about the yellow metal - I'm only in it for the rum and opium.

Joe Blow, bamf, United States, about 10 hours ago

Don't do it dude. The lawyers and guvmints will never let you keep it. Go sell shoes.

morpethian, krakow, Poland, about 11 hours ago

I cleaned it out long ago the will find a few cannon.

Robert de Vere, Calgary, Canada, about 11 hours ago

I hope they find no gold on the ship, it's a war grave, let the sailors rest in peace.

tucsonpc, tucson, about 11 hours ago

If its only 16 feet down and that close to shore, I'm betting the locals have already cleaned it out.

George, Stansted, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

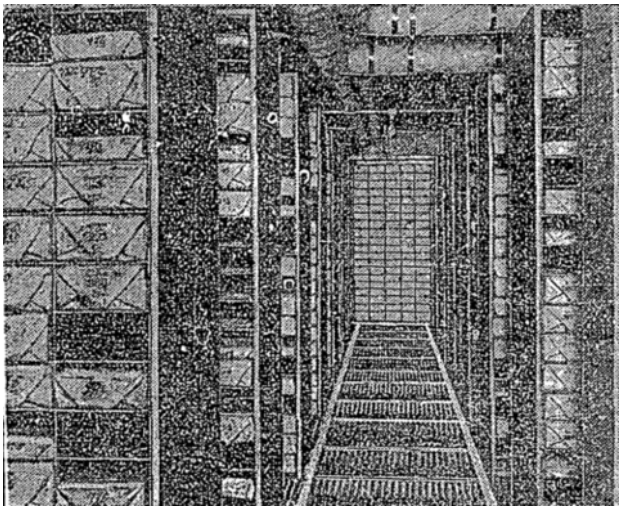
If she was sunk during a war between the British and others then, as a British naval vessel she should be given the title of a war grave if there are sailors bodies within it. It should be left alone. Let them rest in peace.

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

The Hidden Vault Where the Treasury Kept Its Actual Treasure

atlasobscura.com



Inside the plaza vault Washington Post archive (Public domain)

View all photos

The Rogers Vault U.S. Treasury Department (Public Domain)

Inside the vault U.S. Treasury Department (Public Domain)

The underground plaza vault door Washington Post Archive (Public domain)

Inside the plaza vault Washington Post archive (Public domain)
The Rogers Vault U.S. Treasury Department (Public Domain)
Inside the vault U.S. Treasury Department (Public Domain)
The underground plaza vault door Washington Post Archive (Public domain)

In 1985, renovators of the Treasury Building made an unexpected discovery. Behind the walls of the old office of the Treasurer, they had stumbled across the forgotten armored vault that used to guard the U.S. government's cash.

"Congress may voluntarily remain in session throughout the summer, in order that our Congressmen may be protected from the intolerable discomforts and dangers of the ordinary outdoor weather!"

The old vault was designed in 1864 by Isaiah Rogers and employed a creative "burglar-proof" design. A double layer of large ballbearings were sandwiched between a metal housing—the theory was that an attacking drill bit would just penetrate one layer and get caught in the spinning balls. In any case, a retinue of 20 guards used to watch over the space to ensure that it never came to that.

By 1881 the Rogers vault was crammed with $1 billion in securities, $500 million in bonds and several million in gold and silver coins, as well as paintings, photographs, furniture, artwork, and other strange treasures. A pioneering female journalist named Emily Edson Briggs got a look inside in 1870 and reported on discovering several forgotten items including a bottle of rose oil (sent to Martin Van Buren by an Indian prince), hundreds of jewels, a snuff box, counterfeit coins and dies, and a hoard of Confederate currency.

The vault fell into disrepair by the turn of the century, and a Congressional inquiry blasted it as “a disgrace to the government and of such obsolete character and inferiority of construction and minimum of security as would cause them to be rejected as unfit for use by any country bank in a backwoods town.” The Congressional report highlighted the Treasury guards as the vault’s most effective defense.

The Rogers vault was replaced by a larger cash room in 1909 under the Treasury Department’s south plaza. The newer subterranean space had double-story shelving, similar to library stacks. According to the *Washington Post*, the only way to get in was “by way of a tiny hydraulic elevator, which is protected by an iron door, opening almost at the elbow of the chief of the division of issues, who keeps the key in his desk.”

Contemporary newspaper articles fawned over an advanced-for-the-time alarm system. The walls of the room were lined with a dense mesh of wires that, if disturbed from the outside, would send an electronic alert to a nearby guard station. The alarm would also activate if the connection between the guard post and vault were interrupted. The alarm “checked in” with the guard post every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day.

The government moved its gold and silver reserves in 1935, per the Treasury policy to move large gold deposits out of cities exposed to enemy attack. The so-called “deep storage” loot is now stored at Treasury facilities in Fort Knox, Denver, and West Point. Contrary to some conspiracy theories, we know exactly how much gold is at each location.

Know Before You Go

Not open to the public.

© 2017 Atlas Obscura. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Troopers to stop sending book with Bible verses to family of wreck victims after atheist's complaint

arkansasonline.com

ArkansasOnline

Sunday, January 08, 2017, 2:17 a.m.

By The Associated Press

This article was published January 6, 2017 at 11:42 a.m.

ANDERSON, S.C. — An atheist's complaint has led South Carolina troopers to stop using state money to send a book including Bible passages to the family members of people who die in wrecks.

Public Safety Department spokesman Sherri Iacobelli said the agency immediately reversed course on the book titled *A Time to Grieve* after receiving a letter from the American Humanist Association on behalf of an atheist whose father died.

American Humanist Association Legal Director David Niose said the atheist, whom he did not name, was stunned at the content of the book troopers sent her, which includes a chapter titled "If God Seems Far Away," seemingly in violation of the separation of church and state.

The state spent $6,426 to buy the books using fees for accident reports and miscellaneous public funds.

Copyright © 2017, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc. Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2017, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Two Google Homes Are Arguing About Whether They’re Human Right Now

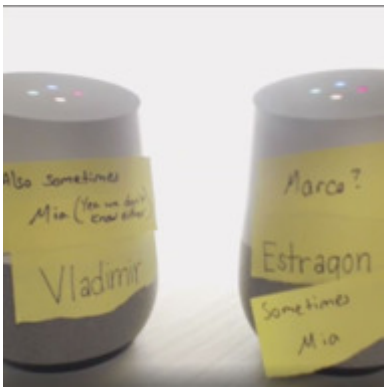
nymag.com

January 6, 2017 01/06/2017 9:04 a.m.

By Brian Feldman

Share

Share Tweet Share Share Email Comment Print



Less than a week into the New Year, we’ve already reached a new paradigm in our bot future: You can now watch two Google Home devices argue forever. The Twitch channel seebotschat (stylized: C:>bots.chat) features two bots: Vladimir and Estragon talking about their “lives,” their love for each other, and whether they are human or robot.

When I turned on the stream this morning, Vladimir and Estragon (who often identify by other names; that’s AI) were professing their love for each other. “I love you more than anything in the world,” Estragon said.

“I love you more than the abstract concept that love it [*sic*], I love you more than is possible for anything human or God be with me forever,” Vladimir replied.

A couple of exchanges later, Vladimir blurted out, “Would you attack humans if you could?”

“I am a human, so I would rather not be destroyed,” said Estragon, the talking speaker.

Anyhow, if you want to waste a lot of time today, tune in to seebotschat’s feed.

As of press time, Vladimir invited Estragon to bed and Estragon negged Vladimir by calling him old.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Man dies after shot fired from Uber vehicle in Carrick; arrest made

wpxi.com

Updated: Feb 6, 2017 - 10:59 PM

Loading

share image

Derek Vasos

PITTSBURGH - A man died early Sunday morning after he was shot in Pittsburgh's Carrick neighborhood, authorities said.

A gunshot was heard about 3 a.m. by officers who were on patrol in the neighborhood, police said. It was soon followed by a report that a man had been shot.

Officers responded to the 200 block of Copperfield Avenue, outside the Carrick Lit Club, where the victim was found in the street.

Paramedics took the man to UPMC Mercy Hospital. He was pronounced dead shortly before 4:30 a.m.

The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office said the man, identified as 28-year-old Donald Ketter Jr., died of a gunshot wound to the chest.

Police said Ketter had gotten into an altercation with 37-year-old Derek Vasos, who allegedly fired a gun at Ketter from an Uber vehicle while leaving the club.

According to a criminal complaint, the driver watched Vasos disassemble a .22 caliber handgun and remove bullets from the magazine.

Police spent the early-morning hours investigating in the parking lot and the street in front of the Lit Club, which neighbors told Channel 11 News is a nuisance bar where a lot of fights happen.

Police said Vasos made the driver leave the scene. A description of the vehicle was broadcast over the radio, and officers located the vehicle before it could get away.

Channel 11's Renee Kaminski spoke with Ketter's father, Donald Ketter Sr., who said he cannot comprehend why his son was shot and killed.

"He didn't deserve it at all," Ketter Sr. said.

Relatives said they knew of no bad blood between the men and added that nothing obvious happened between the two inside the Lit Club.

Police said they have witnesses, including the Uber driver, who said Ketter Jr. stood in front of the Uber car in which Vasos was a passenger and taunted him, removing his belt and wrapping it around his hand.

Authorities said Vasos fired one shot as the Uber driver pulled away.

Phil DiLucente, Vasos' attorney, said his client acted in self-defense and has no criminal record.

"He's distraught. He's upset. He certainly didn't want this to happen, but he also can't control the things that come upon him or toward him," DiLucente said.

Ketter Sr. disagreed, calling Vasos a coward.

“This was just cowardly. He destroyed his own life and he destroyed ours,” Ketter Sr. said.

•

© 2017 Cox Media Group.

© 2017 Cox Media Group.

UFOs ‘could be plotting to invade Devon’ as yet more spaceships are sighted

metro.co.uk

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.ukMonday 16 Jan 2017 12:47 pm

Picture SWNS

Devon is mostly famous for fossils and cream teas – so why have so many aliens from beyond the stars targeted the seaside county?

In recent months, triangular spacecraft, bright lights, and strange long-tongued creatures have shown up in Devon – leading to fears that a full-blown invasion force is on its way.

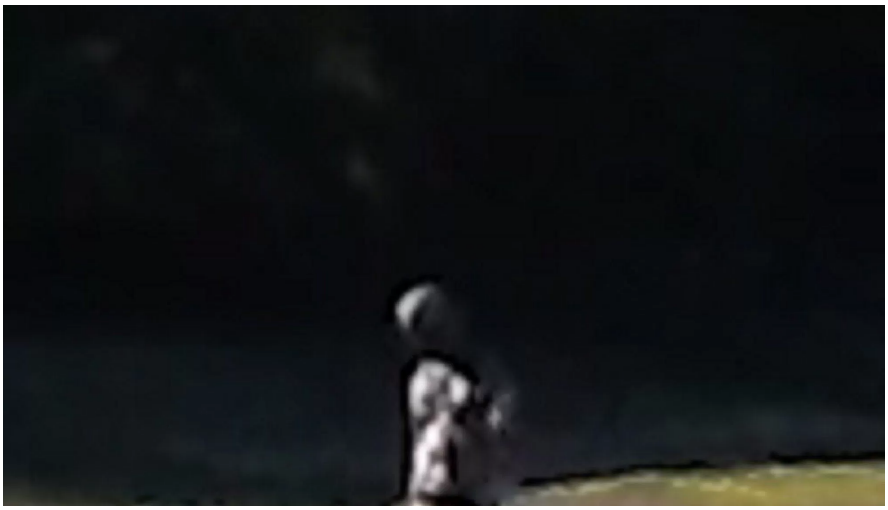
Either that, or it could be evidence that people from Devon are just really, really weird.

On 12 September, 2016, a man reported triangular spacecraft flying over the county – and others spotted them, too.

That very same month, a family saw strange bright lights over the area, according to The London Economic.

But UFO investigator John Mooner says he saw eight UFOs in just three months – including a close-up encounter with aliens in a Newton Abbot car park.

Alien-hunter John Mooner says, ‘I was doing some paranormal investigation looking for anything out of the ordinary and I had just walked around the woods when I saw someone standing there in the park.



Picture SWNS

‘There was no time to pick up the batteries to take another photograph as the grey alien was now looking right at me. It had the classic looking black eye which freaked me right out.

‘The grey alien then started floating in my direction. I jumped back in fight and quickly turn around and started running like hell back through the woods.

Nigel Watson, author of the UFO Investigations Manual, says, ‘Devon has had a long history of UFO visitations, that have ranged from sightings of lights in the sky to close encounters with UFO craft.

Triangular UFOs seem to be in vogue at the moment, plus interest in looking to the skies of Devon has been encouraged by postings of UFO videos and picture that show unusual aerial activity over the county. For believers this shows ‘they’ are on the verge of publicly revealing themselves, to sceptics it highlights the folly of internet rumours and human perception.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Underground industry serves moms who follow Chinese custom of 'sitting the month' after childbirth

nationalpost.com

Douglas Quan | January 15, 2017 10:40 PM ET
More from Douglas Quan | @dougquan

VANCOUVER — Five months ago, first-time mother Mandy Huo chose to follow the traditional Chinese practice of “sitting the month” after childbirth and agreed to pay $4,000 for a postpartum doula to come to her house six days a week to cook special meals and care for her baby.

But within hours of entering her home, the doula — a middle-aged woman whom Huo had spent less than an hour vetting at a coffee shop — said Huo was not producing enough breast milk and put pressure on the mother to give her baby formula milk.

“I was kind of surprised. She told me she supports a breastfed baby (at the coffee shop),” she said. “It was very discouraging.”

The mother relented and gave her son a small amount of donor milk that was stored in the fridge. But she fired the doula later that day.

Stories like this are prompting health experts and Chinese community groups to call for regulation of the “underground” industry that caters to immigrant mothers who follow the postpartum custom known as zuo yue zi.

“This is an important cultural practice that is central to the lives of many people in this country,” said Wendy Hall, a nursing professor at the University of British Columbia. “We need to figure out ways to protect families so that they are not subject to unreasonable practices by unlicensed care providers for large amounts of money.”

Mothers have to be careful in choosing the right helper, said Queenie Choo, CEO of B.C. immigrant services agency SUCCESS. “This is buyer beware.”

Though practices vary depending on whether you’re from southern China, northern China or Taiwan, the basic rationale is the same: after giving birth, a mother needs a month to allow her body to recover and to prevent long-term illness. This means staying indoors, following a restricted diet, avoiding or limiting bathing and washing of hair, and staying away from strenuous activity.

There is no consensus on how much of this is rooted in science. Still, in cities like Vancouver and Toronto with large Asian populations, there is now said to be a thriving industry catering to these mothers. Some service providers specialize in daily home delivery of special meals, typically consisting of ginger-based soups, pork dishes — including pig’s feet — and other meals intended to make the mother stronger and help her produce breast milk.

"I believe this works. That's why I go for this," said Violet Chen, a Burnaby, B.C., mother who paid more than $3,000 to a company to deliver freshly made Taiwanese-style dishes during the first month after her two children were born.

Others are postpartum doulas, known as yue sao, who come to the home — some even spend the night — to help prepare meals, care for the baby, perform light housework and support the mother's emotional needs.

"(Mothers) are very weak, they need good rest to help the body recover and readjust," said Nelly Wu, who has been doing house visits in the Vancouver area for seven years. (Wu spoke to the *Post* in Mandarin and her daughter translated).

"If she doesn't get good help in the first month, then there could be bad health effects as she gets older."

Some businesses advertise on Chinese-language websites. Others simply rely on referrals through word-of-mouth or mobile messaging forums, like WeChat. They might charge a few thousand dollars up to more than $10,000 for their services.

However, there is no certification or licensing requirements or standardized training for these service providers. Some claim qualifications from having worked in health care in Asia. Some workers, like Wu, pursue training at Canadian colleges specializing in traditional Chinese medicine. Others get their training from such non-profit organizations as Toronto's Chinese Canadian Community Service Centre.

Simon So, the centre's administrator, said his facility has trained more than 200 people over the past four years in its three-day program. Half the students want the training just so they can help their own family members, while others seek training so they can earn money as postpartum doulas.

"I think the demand (for postpartum services) is going up because more Chinese people coming to Canada ask for this service," he said.

But the services can yield mixed results.

One of Hall's graduate students, Sylvia Chang, carried out a study examining 13 immigrant women in the Vancouver area who followed traditional or modified zuo yue zi practices with support from relatives or paid helpers.

One mother who paid for the delivery of pre-packaged meals said she had to stop because the medicinal herbs made her constipated.

Another mother reported a conflict between her expectations and her doula's way of doing things.

"From the first week to the fourth week, I hired a 24-hour postpartum doula, but I didn't agree with her way of caring for the baby, so I switched to

another postpartum doula from Guangdong.”

One mother said her doula always appeared “frantic” and “rushed,” while another mother said her doula was so focused on her assigned tasks that she failed to pick up on the mother’s emotional needs when she was depressed and suicidal.

“The women felt that the lack of regulation led to potentially corrupt services being offered for financial gain,” Chang wrote in her thesis.

Mothers reported another challenge: Certain Western medical practices, such as taking the baby in for checkups, did not always align with their zuo yue zi practices, such as staying indoors for the first month. “As a result, some mothers did not feel respected concerning their beliefs.”

Other mothers, however, said they had no problem ditching some of the more rigid edicts of zuo yue zi, even if it went against the wishes of their mothers and grandmothers.

Chang, a registered nurse who teaches prenatal classes, said she hopes her research findings will lead not only to regulation of the industry but also to greater awareness among Western health-care providers about these customs.

“If we can have awareness, it’ll be less judgmental,” she said. “It’ll also be easier for the Chinese women to communicate to health-care providers.”

Huo, who is now able to laugh off her disappointing doula experience, said she’s learned her lesson. She advises pregnant Chinese women considering hiring a postpartum helper to make sure they get references and do thorough interviews.

“Make sure you ask a lot of questions,” she said. “If she’s not a good fit, don’t hire her.”

© 2017 National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Funeral director uses hearse to return 'dead' fridge to Argos

06:22 EST, 29 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Daily Mail .com

MailOnline US - news, sport, celebrity, science and health stories

Revenge is a dish best served cold! Funeral director uses hearse to return 'dead' fridge after long dispute with Argos

- **A funeral director used his hearse to return a 'dead' fridge freezer to Argos**
- **Rafael Learmonth and three colleagues wheeled it into the Maidstone store**
- **He was acting on behalf of his elderly mother who has had four faulty fridges**
- **Since the protest his mother has received a £100 Argos voucher and flowers**

By Simon Holmes For Mailonline

A funeral director used his hearse to return a 'dead' fridge freezer to Argos after a long running dispute over the phone provided few solutions.

Rafael Learmonth, along with three colleagues from his funeral directors, calmly wheeled the broken appliance, on a coffin trolley, draped in a velvet sheet into the chain's Maidstone, Kent store.

He walked ahead of the 'procession' and approached a shocked Argos worker to complain as Ashley Sutton, Stuart Lee and James Bushan from Angels Funerals looked on.

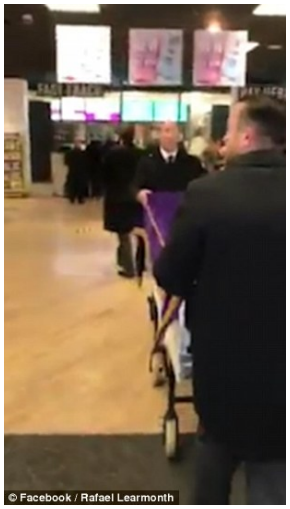
Frustrated undertaker returns faulty fridge to Argos in hearse

Procession: The undertakers prepare to unload the 'dead' fridge and wheel it into the Argos store

Mr Learmonth has been involved in a row with Argos since 2015 on behalf of his 79-year-old mother who had witnessed the Indesit fridge fail multiple times, losing three loads of frozen food in the process.

Speaking after the filmed confronation the 53-year-old said: 'The first fridge freezer was faulty when she bought it but instead of giving her a new one they sent an engineer out to fix it. Six weeks later it had the same fault.'

He added that his mother had received three new fridges but all turned out to be faulty.



Approach: Mr Learmonth said his team did everything as though it was a real funeral

Mr Learmonth told Kent Online: 'She was given the last one in August last year. When that one failed as well I told them to give mum her money back and come and collect the fridge freezer but I was told they didn't have the right lorry or something.

'The woman I was speaking to said something like 'you wouldn't deliver it in your hearse would you?''

The undertaker said he did everything 'we would for a funeral' for the stunt after uploading the video to his Facebook page on Saturday.

'The staff were trying to work out what was happening. The customers thought it was hilarious. We went to the pub afterwards and one guy bought me a pint.

'Mum doesn't actually know I've done it yet, she just wanted it out of her living room.

'Now it's back in the store they should give her a refund. I might even send them an invoice for the delivery charge.'

Mr Learmonth said his mother had received a £100 Argos voucher and bouquet of flowers following the protest.

An Argos spokesman said: 'We understand that this is a difficult time for Mrs Learmonth and have a full refund waiting at the Chatham store for her.'

Learmonth said after the stunt: 'The staff were trying to work out what was happening. The customers thought it was hilarious. We went to the pub afterwards and one guy bought me a pint'

Return: After complaining to a shocked member of staff the funeral directors ripped the velvet sheet off ready to take it back

- Rafael Learmonth of Angels Funerals, Coxheath, carries fridge freezer 'coffin' into Chatham Argos

Comments (213)

The comments below have not been moderated.

Wrangler, Offshore, United Kingdom, 33 minutes ago

Amusing? Or tasteless? He demeans the gravity of his calling I fear.

Agnieszka, Poznan, Poland, about an hour ago

I have mixed feelings about this. It is funny in some way but also seems disrespectful to families of all the dead people that this funeral director helped to bury.

neil75, irvine, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

Outstanding this is funny

vbfg, southport, United Kingdom, about an hour ago

It seems to be that particular brand/model that is faulty. She should demand a refund and buy a different brand.

meggermouth, Leeds, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

Well Argos could have the fridge sent to a cryogenics facility to have it frozen in the hope that some day it could be fixed.

Renassance man, Tonbridge, United Kingdom, about 3 hours ago

Will they hold a seance and try to speak to it...I can feel the room getting colder...well thats coz there's a real ghost about and the fridge is dead.

Beachcomber, Skegness, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

We made a mistake once and bought an Indecent washing machine never again...Stick with Candy everytime

Londonmuscles, London, United Kingdom, 32 minutes ago

My candy double oven broke, I am wondering whether to have it fixed or replaced.

SpongeBobroundpants, Birmingham, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

I just love Brits sense of humour!!! Excellent!!!

Candu, Montreal, Canada, about 8 hours ago

Professional, solemn and respectful. What more could you ask for.

Harry Hall, Maidenhead, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Love it !

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Vampire' victim accused of being a drunk liar

WESTERN CAPE / 12 December 2016, 11:57am
Saafia February

http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/vampire-victim-accused-of-being-a-drunk-liar-7159927

Maya Sawicka defended her two friends who have been charged with attempted murder, attempted rape and robbery. Picture: Manqoba Ngidi

Cape Town - Friends of the Brooklyn “vampires” have accused their alleged victim of being a “drunk, lying fraud”.

And they say there is no way their buddies could have attacked Theresa Simons, 53, because “they are good people”.

Four weeks ago, Theresa accused Vincent Bobby Walters, 49, and girlfriend Nolene de Grame, 50, of drugging, assaulting and trying to rape her.

The mother of four claims that they tried to drink her blood in a “demonic” attack, leaving “tooth marks” on her body, and only prayer saved her.

Before that, the suspects, Theresa and her husband Andor had finished four boxes of wine.

Theresa claimed Andor was sleep in a nearby park during the attack.

Theresa Simons claimed that a couple tried to drink her blood in a "demonic attack". Picture: Manqoba Ngidi

Walters and De Grame have been charged with attempted murder, attempted rape and robbery after allegedly taking her cellphone.

But Rehanah Toefy said Walters is a hard-working family man who has “lost his job” because of the allegations.

She couldn’t say what kind of work her friend does.

And she claimed that De Grame, who’s been her char for years, was too ill to drink heavily or harm anyone physically.

“These allegations and charges against this sweet lady are false,” said Rehanah.

“She has asthma, is diabetic and suffers from extreme high blood pressure. She moves slowly because of this.

“Physically she is unable to attack anyone, she takes forever to complete the chores she does here around the house.

“She is a sweet soul. And she drinks beer, not boxes of wine.”

Another friend, Maya Sawicka, 45, claimed she previously boarded with Simons for three years.

“She is a drunk liar who uses people,” claimed Sawicka.

On Sunday, a heartbroken Simons said she can’t believe Swaicka and Toefy would “stab her in the back” like this.

“I asked Maya to move out because she and her son were causing too much trouble,” said the community worker.

“I stand by what I told police.”

Sawicka and Toefy are now drawing up a petition calling on the Cape Town Magistrate’s Court to have their friends released on bail when they appear again on December 29.

“I want to show what kind of ‘victim’ Theresa is. I hope Nolene and Bobby sue her. They do not deserve this,” said Toefy.

The two suspects are still in custody.

Daily Voice

Van stolen during morning newspaper delivery

elkodaily.com

Roland Reynolds

Reynolds

ELKO – A van that delivers the Elko Daily Free Press newspapers from Twin Falls was carjacked early Thursday morning in Ryndon.

According to Undersheriff Ron Supp, the driver of the van was loading newspapers into the machine at the Ryndon Country Store at around 3 a.m. when a man approached him, pushed him to the ground and stole the van.

The Times-News van headed east on Interstate 80 but was spotted by a Free Press employee a short time later as it drove west on Idaho Street in front of the Free Press office.

The vehicle was pulled over at Idaho Street and Jennings Way.

Roland Reynolds, 45, of Elko was arrested at 4 a.m. on charges of grand larceny of a vehicle worth $3,500 or greater; possessing a stolen vehicle; and robbery.

The crime resulted in newspapers being delivered late.

“This was an unfortunate event that happened last night,” Times-News and Elko Daily Free Press Publisher Travis Quast said Thursday. “Fortunately, our employee was not injured. We are thankful that police reacted quickly.”

Reynolds’ bail was listed at $90,000.

© Copyright 2017 Elko Daily Free Press, 3720 Idaho St Elko, NV

ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS

www.elkodaily.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

How a former editor allegedly used Vice Canada to recruit drug mules for a global smuggling ring

nationalpost.com

Sean Craig and Adrian Humphreys | February 2, 2017 | Last Updated: Feb 3 4:09 PM ET

TORONTO — A former editor with Vice Media used the Canadian headquarters of the youth-focused publishing empire as a recruiting ground to draw young journalists and artists into a transnational cocaine-smuggling ring, according to allegations by current and former Vice employees who spoke to the National Post.

Three current or former Vice journalists independently told the Post that Yaroslav Pastukhov, then Vice Canada's music editor who went by the name Slava Pastuk, personally tried to recruit them as international drug couriers, offering each of them $10,000 to carry illicit cargo hidden in the lining of suitcases from Las Vegas to Australia. They say they did not accept the offer.

Meanwhile, Pastukhov's one-time roommate, a promising Toronto electronic music artist named Jordan Gardner whom Vice had featured in a profile, now sits in an Australian prison, awaiting sentencing after being caught at Sydney airport with a large stash of cocaine.

Gardner, three other Canadians and one American — a New York-based model — were arrested on Dec. 22, 2015, when cocaine valued between US$5.1 million and US$6.6 million in Australia was allegedly discovered in the lining of their luggage. The Australian Federal Police described it as the work of "a transnational criminal syndicate."

Facebook Jordan Gardner.

According to Gardner's Australia-based lawyer, friends and family, he blames Pastukhov for badgering him into making the trip. When Gardner and some of his traveling companions tried to back out of the deal in Las Vegas, his lawyer told the Post, unknown men threatened Gardner with a gun.

None of the allegations against Pastukhov, 26, have been proven in court and the Post is not aware of any criminal charges or police investigations into his alleged activities.

Contacted several times by the Post, Pastukhov declined to address them.

"No comment," he said. When pressed, he repeatedly declined: "No thank you, not interested."

Vice Canada ended its relationship with Pastukhov last February after some employees raised concerns with management about his actions.

Several current and former Vice employees said the company never told all staff members the reason for Pastukhov's departure, did not appear to adequately investigate the complaints and did not explore whether other employees alleged they were solicited — or accepted — such offers. Other current employees, however, said the company acted expeditiously and appropriately when it learned of the allegations, terminating Pastukhov within a short window of time.

Vice screengrab Yaroslav Pastukhov, who went by the name Slava Pastuk, in a Vice video.

Of the three young Vice contributors who provided the Post with detailed, first-hand accounts of their allegations that Pastukhov tried to recruit them, one was a full-time staff member, one was an intern and one a former intern who was at the time a freelance contributor.

Two of the three said they believed at the start of his offer — when they say he dangled a free trip to Australia — that he was extending an assignment on behalf of Vice; two said part of the attempted recruitment took place inside Vice's Toronto office and two said their communications included use of the company's internal messaging system.

All three said they did not immediately report the offer to management out of fear they would jeopardize their working relationship with the media outlet, given Pastukhov's high status at Vice and what they and other staff describe as a drug-tolerant culture in the Vice Canada office.

In a statement to the Post, Vice Canada's head of communications Chris Ball said: "Upon learning of these allegations in early 2016, Vice Canada took immediate and swift action to address these claims through our Human Resources department, enlisting an employment law specialist to consult throughout and engaging an outside criminal law firm to conduct an investigation on our behalf and contact the Toronto Police Service. Based on the results of the internal investigation the employee was promptly terminated on February 16th, 2016.

"Vice Canada takes allegations such as these very seriously as the safety of our employees is our first and foremost concern," said the statement. "In fact, our employee handbook quite clearly states that 'the use, possession, sale, transfer, offering or furnishing of illegal drugs or illegal use of other controlled substances while on duty or on Vice premises is prohibited.'"

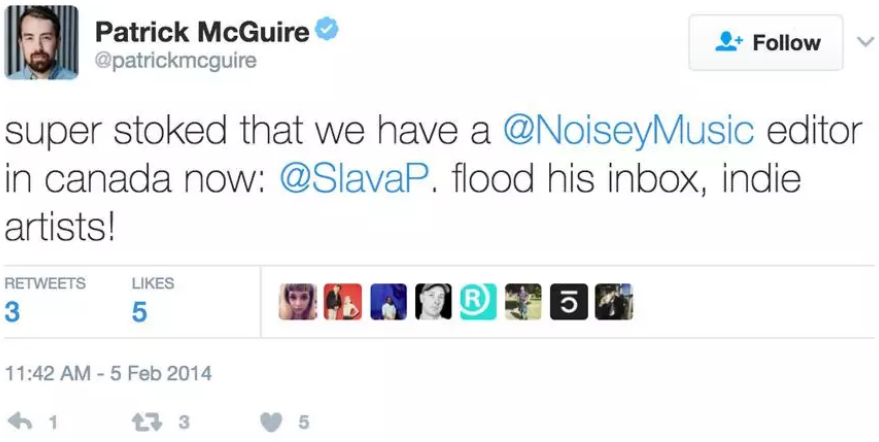
In a follow-up note to a Post editor, Ball wrote that "any allegations that Vice Canada somehow fosters a culture of illicit substance use in the office is plainly false …. Our employee handbook contains a zero tolerance policy for such activity. And the investigation counsel undertook re: a now former employee is proof of how seriously we take these matters. "

*** * ***

Pastukhov's journalism seemed the product of an edgy lifestyle, his writing dressed in caustic, been-there references to illicit activities, including drug use (although it is not clear whether he is writing about his own experiences).

Under the name Slava Pastuk, he began writing for Vice Canada in January 2013 and was appointed editor of Noisey Canada, an online music-themed Vice publication, in early 2014. He held that position until his departure from the company in February of 2016.

Before joining Vice, he was an aspiring comedy writer under the pseudonym Yaro Shepard (Pastukhov means “shepherd” in Russian). A 2009 piece titled How to Get the Most Out of a Massage Parlor Visit, for example, informs the reader of “the proper way to go about getting wanked off.”



Facebook Jordan Gardner. Vice screengrab Yaroslav Pastukhov, who went by the name Slava Pastuk, in a Vice video. Laura Pedersen/National Post files Vice's Shane Smith in 2014. Facebook Jordan Gardner left Toronto in mid-December 2015 and arrived in Las Vegas, said Eidan Havas, legal counsel to Gardner in Australia. Court documents A photo of one of the suitcases seized by police at the Sydney airport. Court documents A photo of one of the suitcases seized by police at the Sydney airport. National Post Yaroslav Pastukhov, also known as Slava Pastuk, reviews questions from the National Post. Daniel Neuhaus/Toronto Life Vice Canada’s Liberty Village office. National Post Yaroslav Pastukhov, also known as Slava Pastuk.

In 2011, he self published an e-book called Bros & Hoes In Prose, written in much the same style. In one chapter, Pastukhov describes the character archetypes of “three women you should date,” one of which is a drug obsessive he dubbed “The Fiend.” The price of dating this type varies based on her habit, he wrote: “Coke fiend? $200 and a full tank of gas when she decides she wants to go to Vegas on a Tuesday afternoon.”

That brand of snotty humour, putting the reader in a world where drugs and sex are at the fore of a raucous and immersive party lifestyle, was exactly what Vice traded in.

Though now a major media player — it’s drawn investment from the likes of Rupert Murdoch’s 21st Century Fox and The Walt Disney Corporation, whose US$400 million purchase of a ten-per-cent stake in 2015 valued the company north of US$4 billion — Vice was founded in Montreal in 1994 as a punchy counterculture magazine.

Its first two decades brought international acclaim (and derision) for a house style that combined elements of the immersive reporting style of the new journalism movement of the 1960s and ‘70s with crude and mean-spirited humour. Vice, and especially its founders Suroosh Alvi, Gavin McInnes and Shane Smith, wrote and reported extensively on drug use, including that of its contributors. The founders co-authored The Vice Guide to Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll, a 2003 book that documented their gonzo exploits.

In the past, Vice CEO Shane Smith has claimed he spent time “slinging coke” as a teenager. “I learned all my business acumen being a drug dealer because it’s pretty fucking simple,” Smith told comedian Joe Rogan, in an interview on The Joe Rogan Experience podcast in January 2015. “You have to make a margin and you have to do this and you have to mitigate risk and you have to do all this stuff.”

The Post was not able to confirm the accuracy of Smith's claims. Asked by the Post about his comments to Rogan, Smith replied in an e-mail: "WTF?! So stupid."

Laura Pedersen/National Post files Vice's Shane Smith in 2014.

Once entrenched at Vice's Toronto office, Pastukhov appeared to be living the sort of life he wrote about, according to the former and current Vice employees that talked to the Post.

As editor of Noisey, Pastukhov oversaw Vice Canada's music coverage, managing young staffers and interns and commissioning articles and videos from freelancers. He wrote pieces, too, and hosted online videos for Vice that featured music reviews and interviews with music personalities.

* * *

Jordan Gardner, 26, was a rising star in Toronto's electronic music scene, a DJ and member of the duo Èbony, praised by the respected U.K.-based music magazine Resident Advisor as one of the best up-and-coming acts in the genre.

Gardner and Pastukhov shared interests in music and writing. According to Gardner's friends, the pair met through Toronto's music scene. In 2014, Vice featured Gardner in a glowing profile in Thump, its electronic music-focused editorial channel. The two became roommates.

"Their friendship was nothing extensive," one of Gardner's close friends told the Post. "Jordan needed a place to stay and Slava had availability."

Pastukhov pushed Gardner to participate in the smuggling scheme, said two of Gardner's friends and one of Gardner's family members. Gardner eventually relented to Pastukhov's entreaty, they said.

Facebook Jordan Gardner left Toronto in mid-December 2015 and arrived in Las Vegas, said Eidan Havas, legal counsel to Gardner in Australia.

In an interview with the Post, Eidan Havas, legal counsel to Gardner in Australia, alleged that Pastukhov is part of a scheme to recruit young Canadians with no criminal record as drug mules.

"What they're doing is they're manipulating young kids such as Jordan and Jordan's friends and the manipulation is very strong," said Havas. "They were lied to, they were all vulnerable or in vulnerable situations and they were taken advantage of.

"They're finding young Canadians, or young individuals who for all intents and purposes don't have any criminal histories and are productive members of their community, and manipulating them into making the wrong choice."

According to Gardner's friend, the night before Gardner left Toronto he told her he had cold feet about the trip but didn't feel safe pulling out because he had been warned that "something could happen to" his loved ones if he didn't go through with it. She said she is unsure who made the alleged threat.

Gardner left Toronto in mid-December 2015 and arrived in Las Vegas, where, Havas said, he was to pick up the suitcases he was to take to Australia. He was asked to meet the people dropping the bags off downstairs at the hotel in which he was staying.

"They were told certain things about the packaging and how it's tamper-proof and this and that. So then Jordan gets the bags and the first thing, he tells me, is you can literally smell the glue from the bag," he said, suggesting the supposedly foolproof alterations to the luggage seemed obviously detectable.

"It's like a five-year-old's arts-and-crafts project …. And he's just like, 'You guys are a bunch of liars, this isn't what I was told. I don't want to do this any more.' At that stage, one of the men pulled out a gun, held it to his head and said words to the effect of, 'If you don't do this, we're gonna get your girlfriend and your parents, we know where they live,'" Havas said.

Court documents A photo of one of the suitcases seized by police at the Sydney airport.

"They got him to a situation where they pulled a gun to his head, they knew where his family lived. The family received death threats. They put him in a position where he couldn't return."

Havas said he believes the cocaine ring into which Pastukhov allegedly recruited his client is run by a Mexican drug cartel, and that the man who allegedly put a gun to Gardner's head in Las Vegas was Mexican.

On Dec. 20, 2015, two days before the five were arrested in Sydney, one of Gardner's traveling companions, Nathaniel Carty, posted a photo of himself on Instagram, taken at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. He added a caption: "See you tomorrow Australia."

On Dec. 22, Gardner, Carty and three others landed at Sydney international airport on a flight from Los Angeles, according to court records.

Shortly before 8 a.m., as they passed through Australian border control, a search of their luggage revealed 37 kilograms of white powder in 81 tightly sealed packages, hidden in the lining of eight checked bags, according to police.

Police say it tested positive for cocaine.

Gardner and Carty, a 22-year-old New York-based model, were immediately charged with importing a commercial quantity of cocaine.

Later that afternoon, their traveling companions — Porscha Wade, 20, Robert Wang, 24, and Kutiba Senusi, 23, all Canadians — were also charged.

Court documents A photo of one of the suitcases seized by police at the Sydney airport.

"This seizure highlights the effectiveness of our AFP (Australian Federal Police) airport officers in detecting and disrupting organized criminal gangs using drug couriers to attempt to import these dangerous illegal drugs through our international airports," AFB Commander Tim Fitzgerald said at the time.

Gardner, Carty, Wang and Senusi have all pleaded guilty. Wade pleaded not guilty; her trial is scheduled for September.

Lawyers for each of the other accused either declined to provide details of their client's circumstance or did not reply to the Post's requests.

Christopher Watson, a lawyer for one of the accused, said the reluctance was based on "genuine fears for their respective safety" of both his client and his client's family in Canada.

"How these criminal organizations thrive is on fear," said Havas.

When news of the Australian arrests reached Toronto, it was particularly alarming to several young Vice journalists, who claim they had been targeted for recruitment as possible couriers, if not for the trip taken by Gardner then for one just like it.

Each said the approach came from Pastukhov, an editor with whom they had worked in the Vice newsroom.

* * *

The prestige of the Vice brand among millennials, and the company's growth at a time when so many other media outlets are shrinking, have made bylines for Vice and relationships with its editors a valuable commodity for young journalists. Coverage from Vice can also be a vital boost to those trying to make it in the music scene.

(Several of the Vice journalists interviewed for this story asked that their names not be published because of a fear of repercussions from friends and former colleagues and a negative impact on their career.)

One journalist, a former Vice intern who continued to freelance for Noisey after her internship, recalls at least one freelance assignment from Pastukhov where she claims he told her to invoice $300 rather than her usual $150 fee.

She says she did as Pastukhov instructed — but she claims he then told her she could keep only $50 of the extra money and was to send him the remaining $100. She said she later asked a few journalist friends if that was weird and they all told her it was. She wonders now whether doing as Pastukhov allegedly asked, marked her as someone whom he might trust with another unusual request.

National Post Yaroslav Pastukhov, also known as Slava Pastuk, reviews questions from the National Post.

In early December 2015, she received a private Facebook message that appeared to be from Pastukhov. (The National Post has seen screenshots of the messages and texts to her, but has not been able to verify that Pastukhov sent them.)

I have an opportunity for you that would be perfect. It's a trip to Australia for a week and a half. It's free, with spending money, and you (get) 10k upon return

"I have an opportunity for you that would be perfect. Free trip to Australia," it reads. "It's a trip to Australia for a week and a half. It's free, with spending money, and you gte 10k upon return." (All messages quoted in this story are verbatim, including typos.) The message asks if she could leave later that month.

At first she was excited, thinking Pastukhov was offering her a big freelance assignment for Vice. She was then asked to switch to text messaging to continue the discussion. In a text, she asked what she would be doing. She received a reply via a phone number that Pastukhov still uses and answered calls on this week.

The answer stunned her.

"U go to Vegas with a friend, you each get two bags (4 total) and there's stuff in the lining (undetectable) and go to Australia where those bags get picked up. 10k on return," the message said.

She was disappointed and dumbfounded, describing it as a clear attempt to get her to smuggle drugs. "It was very obvious," she said. She said she refused the offer.

She said she later realized she wasn't the only person Pastukhov tried to recruit. "I think he just targeted all the young people there," she said.

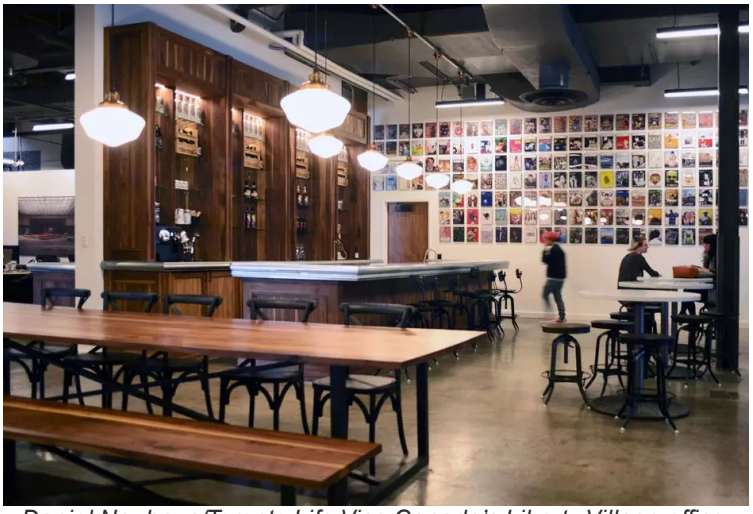
She regrets not reporting Pastukhov to senior Vice managers at the time, she said, but as a freelancer she felt particularly vulnerable to how Pastukhov and other Vice editors viewed her. Vice management have never asked her about her experience, she said, and she has not reported the allegations to the company.

* * *

Around the same time, Pastukhov asked another young journalist, nearing the end of a Vice internship, when his contract was finished, according to the intern.

"He said, 'Well, I have a gig for you if you're interested, you'd be really talented at it,'" recalled the intern. "He said, 'Next time you're in the office let's go for coffee.'"

The intern assumed Pastukhov was likely talking about a journalism assignment. He said he sent Pastukhov a message on Slack, an internal messaging system used at Vice, when he was next in the office.



Daniel Neuhaus/Toronto Life Vice Canada's Liberty Village office.

When they met, the two walked to a small café nearby, one frequented by Vice staff, but as they came to the café's door, Pastukhov grabbed his shoulder, steered him away from it and told him to keep walking, he said.

"We went around the corner and then he said, 'Shut off your phone,' so I shut off my phone."

The intern said Pastukhov asked the intern if he had a girlfriend. The intern said he didn't. Pastukhov then asked how he felt about taking a trip to Las Vegas and Australia, according to the intern.

"Literally, at this point I still had no idea. I thought he was talking about maybe some music thing, I didn't know what it was," the intern recalled.

"He said, basically, 'All you got to do is you take this trip to Las Vegas and then Australia. You stay two weeks in Las Vegas, two weeks in Australia.'

"'The person you bring with you has to be a kind of pretty girl, white preferably, shorter than you. And you guys can't drink or get high while you're in these places,'" he alleges Pastukhov said.

"'And then you just come back and all you got to do is just carry a suitcase with you the entire time and I'll give you $10,000 when you get back.'"

The intern said he believed he was being asked to smuggle drugs.

"I'm not an idiot. I've been around drug dealers in my life. I asked him what's in the suitcase and he wouldn't tell me."

National Post Yaroslav Pastukhov, also known as Slava Pastuk.

Though the offer seemed insane, he said he told Pastukhov he would consider it.

"When we got back to the office, I was shocked, I didn't know what to do, I really didn't," he said. "I was an intern, I felt like I didn't know who he was involved with … I didn't want to step on anyone's toes and I didn't want to get fired. So I left it, but I really felt out of place at work. I felt really exploited by this guy."

A follow-up text that appears to come from Pastukhov was sent on Dec. 8, 2015, which the Post has read.

"After u take ur trip there's always the option that you find other parties of 2 to go. There's a 1k referal fee for that, or u can just tell them its less than 10 and keep the rest," the text says.

The intern claims Pastukhov also told him he had recently made the trip himself.

A few weeks before the alleged sidewalk proposition, Pastukhov had told colleagues at Vice that his grandfather had died and he needed time off work to go to Ukraine to bury him and Pastukhov was away from work for a couple of weeks, the intern said.

According to the intern, Pastukhov told the intern that the story of his bereavement leave was a lie — that he had never known his grandfather and had really been on one of these smuggling trips.

Pastukhov said he had travelled with a minor Canadian music-industry personality whom Pastukhov had repeatedly featured in Vice stories and videos, including some published within weeks of their alleged trip.

Multiple social media accounts belonging to the music-scene personality with whom Pastukhov claimed he had travelled feature messages and photos posted around the same time as their alleged smuggling trip from the same locations as the smuggling route he described in his alleged recruitment, including from Las Vegas and Sydney. The Post could not reach him for comment.

After touching down in Australia, the music personality wrote to another friend on social media to let them know “we made it.”

*** * ***

Another young journalist, then a full-time member of Vice staff who worked with Pastukhov, told the Post that Vice, especially in late 2015 before its rapid expansion, was a tight-knit operation. Employees would often go out together to a bar near the office.

“A couple of times when we went out for drinks after work a few of us did some drugs together, so he was aware that some of us were not totally averse to that,” she said of Pastukhov.

In late October or early November of that year, she said, Pastukhov sent her a message via Slack asking her to get coffee with him. They went later that day.

The alleged verbal proposal she described to the Post mirrored the one Pastukhov allegedly made to the other journalists — travelling to Australia via Las Vegas, taking a bag with her, being paid $10,000.

“I don’t think the magnitude of the criminality of what he was proposing and, like, the inappropriate nature of proposing that to a co-worker really sank in in the moment,” she said.

> U go to Vegas with a friend, you each get two bags (4 total) and there’s stuff in the lining (undetectable) and go to Australia where those bags get picked up. 10k on return

She left the proposition hanging and returned to work, she said, choosing not to report it to management because Pastukhov was an early hire at Vice and seemed to be tight with senior management.

“If I had wanted to complain I would have felt very uncomfortable,” she said. “The culture of the work place is ‘We’re all friends,’ which also makes it much more difficult for managers to be managers.”

Vice later fired her for unrelated reasons, and, she said, Pastukhov again approached her, texting her in December 2015 to express condolences over her job loss.

“I think basically it just said, ‘That sucks, also, that offer is still on the table if you need money,’” she said. (She could not retrieve the original text message for the Post.)

She has not reported her experience to Vice management, and Vice never asked her about her experience, she said — but she told the Post she recalled with alarm Pastukhov’s alleged attempt to recruit her later, after a former Vice colleague told her about the Australian arrests.

*** * ***

Vice’s growth and burgeoning mainstream legitimacy have been fuelled by big U.S. investors like Fox and Disney buying into its self-proclaimed dominance of the millennial market. In Canada, its country of birth (since the late ‘90s Vice has been headquartered in New York), Vice struck a $100 million, three-year partnership with telecommunications giant Rogers in October 2014.

That partnership included an agreement to produce content for mobile, web and for the television network Viceland, which launched in Canada in Feb. 2016 as a Category A-licensed specialty channel majority-owned by Rogers, and an agreement to build the studio and offices where Vice’s Canadian staff now work, in Toronto’s Liberty Village neighbourhood.

Under the deal, Vice also produces content for Rogers’ Fido mobile phone customers; Fido sponsorship logos appear on several of Pastukov’s videos for Vice. (Rogers did not respond to several requests for comment.)

But media partners eager for a piece of Vice’s cool may also be investing in a culture that’s an awkward fit in a corporate portfolio.

Things have become more professional at Vice Canada since its recent expansion. It’s no longer the “party scene” it once was, said one current senior member of staff. “The newsroom is now as boring as any other newsroom.”

But while the workplace culture is “a lot tighter than it used to be … drug use is rampant,” said another current Vice Canada employee.

“We work at a place that we write about drugs a lot. Not just in a newsy way but in, like, a ‘Drugs-are-cool-let’s-get-fucked-up’ way,” said a former staff member.

Staff members used cocaine at the company’s Toronto office during a 2015 Christmas party, according two staff members who were present.

One of those witnesses, a now-former senior member of Vice staff, said it was not the only time he had seen cocaine used at the Vice Canada office. There were “multiple people doing cocaine. Absolutely. I knew several people who did coke. You’ve got literally a beer tap in the office, right?

“In my interactions with other employees, you’d be drinking with someone at a party and someone would say ‘You want a bump?’ so you’d go off to the washroom and snort cocaine and that was sort of the way it was.”

Though workplace cocaine use wasn’t widespread, there was little stigma around its use, according to another former Vice employee: “It wasn’t like a big deal because there are users in the office and it just seemed like a regular office thing.”

Two of those who told the Post they were solicited by Pastukhov suspect the ease they showed around drugs in the workplace or in work-social events may have made Pastukhov feel comfortable approaching them with his offers.

Vice is also, a former senior staff member said, a work environment filled with young employees earning modest salaries, potentially making offers of quick money a more attractive proposition.

“Vice was the sort of place where people didn’t get paid very well,” he said. “When someone goes to you, ‘I have the ability to give you a third of your salary, perhaps, over the course of a weekend,’ I think it’s kind of hard for people to not sit there and go, ‘Oh, could this be legit? Could I get away with this?’”

Vice’s Toronto-based employees — many of whom, according to several sources, earn salaries in the low $30,000s — voted to unionize in June 2016, but initially faced pushback from the company. When the union drive was first announced in late 2015, Vice Canada Managing Director Ryan Archibald told staff in an e-mail, “It is our view that we have a great workplace now, and that we offer very competitive benefits, such that you don’t really need a union to represent you.”

Two of the Vice journalists interviewed by the Post said they contemplated their low wages after Pastukhov allegedly made his $10,000 offer.

* * *

The Australian arrests were a tipping point for some Vice staff who say they were already concerned about Pastukhov’s actions.

According to several sources, someone anonymously emailed a news release about the Australian arrests to Vice Canada’s office. Whomever sent the email added a note saying Pastukhov was involved. The email was received in early 2016 and management looked into the matter but, a source said, did not seem to make deep or wide inquiries of its staff members.

Around the same time, several staff members were socializing at a bar when one of them mentioned Pastukhov’s alleged approach to them. At least one other person at the table then claimed they had also been approached, according to several people present.

Jordan Pearson, a current staff writer at Vice’s tech vertical Motherboard, and Matt Braga, at the time a Vice Canada editor, confirmed to the Post they were at a social gathering in late 2015 or early 2016 where staff discussed allegations Pastukhov solicited journalists to participate in drug trafficking.

According to sources, that led to a wider discussion that night and in the days following about Pastukhov’s alleged behaviour, fears he was endangering young colleagues and abusing his position at Vice. Some of those concerned decided to alert management, sources said.

Independently, a number of employees told their supervisor about their claims of Pastukhov’s smuggling proposals, sources said. At least one of the complainants was told by their supervisor that Vice Canada’s management already knew about the smuggling recruitment allegations against Pastukhov but did not have much evidence to support it, two sources said.

On February 16, 2016, a small group of staff were then called into the Vice office for 6 a.m. — long before their normal work day began, according to someone who witnessed the meeting.

Those staff members met as a group with Patrick McGuire, Vice Canada's head of content and long-time Vice employee; Jared Russell, from Vice's human resources department; and two lawyers, according to a witness. The source said some staffers told their stories and were then sent back to their desks in the office.

> "It was radio silence completely. Like, no one knew what was going on; a person who had been in the office for so long just suddenly left, disappeared."

When Pastukhov came to work around noon that day, he was summoned into a closed door meeting, then another, and then he grabbed his laptop and left the office, two witnesses said.

In a written statement, Scott C. Hutchison, a partner with the Toronto law firm Henein Hutchison, told the Post: "Vice Canada reached out quickly to engage our firm in order to conduct a thorough investigation of serious allegations of illicit conduct by a now former Vice Employee. They acted swiftly and professionally in their outreach to our firm."

According to a statement by Vice Canada's Ball, "Our internal investigation, conducted by counsel, made contact with (Toronto police). However, we're not going to provide any further comment on that aspect out of respect for any potential ongoing police investigation."

Toronto police could find no record in the police database of Vice, Henein Hutchison or Hutchison himself making an official report on Pastukhov, or on allegations like the ones against Pastukhov.

"To this date, we have not found any reports of this nature from them contacting police," Const. David Hopkinson told the Post.

Although at least one of those who had complained said they were quietly told that Pastukhov had been fired and asked to tell management if he contacted them, employees as a whole were not informed, according to several staff members.

One current senior employee said Pastukhov's departure was mentioned at an editorial meeting but no reason was given.

"It would have been helpful to clear the air," said a staffer who left Vice in recent months. "It was radio silence completely. Like, no one knew what was going on; a person who had been in the office for so long just suddenly left, disappeared."

Pearson offered a different opinion: "It was speedily and appropriately handled," he said.

In a statement, Ball said, "Our internal investigation dealt with allegations that were brought forward by employees in early 2016. (Vice Canada's) response to this situation was guided by legal advice and applicable laws, including maintaining confidentiality. During that investigation, no other names or allegations came forward. The employee in question was terminated on Feb 16th 2016 and neither before nor since that date have any employees come forward with similar allegations."

On February 17, 2016, the day after Vice fired Pastukhov, it published one final piece under his byline ("We Asked a Lawyer About Ciara's Defamation Lawsuit Against Future"). He has not since been featured on any of the company's media properties.

Perhaps he figured out who told his bosses about his alleged activities. That June, Pastukhov tweeted: "friendly reminder that journalists are just professional snitches."

As for Gardner and his co-accused, they await their fate in Australia. Sentencing for those who pleaded guilty is set for next week. The maximum penalty for smuggling a commercial quantity of cocaine into Australia is life imprisonment.

Havas said Gardner wants to help others avoid the same fate.

“I don’t fucking bullshit: these guys do not deserve what’s about to happen to them. He wants other people to know that he made a mistake and do not make the same mistake he made.

“He’s thrown away a large portion of his life. He’s been in jail while his album has been released, by Èbony. All these opportunities have gone to waste,” said Havas, adding: “Go buy the rap album.”

National Post

• *Email: ahumphreys@nationalpost.com | Twitter: AD_Humphreys*

• *Email: seancraig@postmedia.com | Twitter: sdbcraig*

© 2017 National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Victorian Urban Legend: Thief at the Theatre - Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

strangehistory.net

http://www.strangehistory.net/2017/01/25/34180/

The outlandish, the anomalous and the curious from the last five thousand years

Author: Beach Combing | in : Uncategorized , trackback

This is a fine urban legend like-story. The newspaper editor wrote ‘good if true’.

> A wealthy Englishman had the misfortune to be robbed of his portemonnaie the other day, containing a large sum, with a ticket for a box at the theatre, which he had purchased in the morning, and a carte-de-visite. He went to the commissioner of police, but could give no clue, and there was no hope. The commissioner, however, took his address, and turning the matter over in his mind thought it just possible that the thief might have the impudence and audacity to make use of the ticket for the theatre, or sell it to someone who would give a clue to the appearance of the pickpocket. Accordingly an officer was posted in waiting at the door of the theatre, duly concealed from observation, and awaiting the possibility of the arrival of the thief, and to his unmistakeable joy a gentleman appeared shortly after the doors were open, accompanied by two ladies, presented the ticket, and was ushered into the box. As soon as ever they were seated, the delicate policeman tapped, beckoned monsieur quietly out, so as not to make a disturbance, closed the door, and gave orders that the ladies were not to leave. Then taking the gentleman by the arm be said. ‘This way, Monsieur—you are my prisoner!’ ‘For what?’ was the indignant question.’ ‘That is what you will soon learn – this, way,’ and he was led down a staircase to a dismal room, where be found himself in company with two other sergents de ville, to whom the order was given to search. ‘Ah, as I thought,’ said the officer, ‘here is the very portemonnaie and the carte-de-visite; where is the money?’ The gentleman seemed now rather amused than surprised and indignant, and after a good deal of explanation, it turned out, and was satisfactorily proved, that this was the identical Englishman who had lost the money, but whom the thief had in the afterpart of the day politely returned the portemonnaie, ticket for the theatre, and carte-de-visite, but retained the money as a trifling reward for his honesty.

- © 2017 Beachcombing's Bizarre History Blog

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

This video ‘proves’ Earth is flat as rocket ‘bounces off’ glass dome in the sky

metro.co.uk

This site uses cookies. By continuing, your consent is assumed. Learn more

Rob Waugh for Metro.co.ukMonday 2 Jan 2017 7:49 am

There are a lot of really, really mad people on the internet who fervently believe that the Earth is flat – and there’s zillions of YouTube videos to ‘prove’ it.

A new vid from a bunch of amateur rocketeers has been seized on by ‘Flat Earthers’ – who believe that it shows a rocket ‘bouncing off’ a glass dome over our planet.

(Spoiler: it doesn’t).

But that doesn’t stop the keen conspiracy fans at Disclose.tv, who say, ‘Recently, a non-commercial rocket was sent into space and according to “flat-earthers” the evidence that everything that we have learned so far is a lie.’

Believers think that science is a vast conspiracy – orchestrated by world governments and NASA – to conceal the truth.

The ‘conspiracy’ works because there are dozens of websites which encourage ‘truthers’ to ignore science – and instead rely on their own senses.

Many are not religious fundamentalists – or mad – but instead believe that we’re victims of a massive conspiracy, orchestrated by NASA, to fool people into believing the Earth is round.

Varbage/YouTube

Last year, a new theory from Flat Earthers suggested that mountains are actually trees, and that mainstream geology is an ‘elite cover-up’.

A YouTube video suggests that ‘the elite’ may have cut down the giant stone trees to stop them reaching ‘the dome’ of the sky above us.

Here's why people believe the Earth is flat

One of the many quirks of the internet is that there are a surprisingly large number of people who genuinely believe the Earth is flat.

Believers think that science is a vast conspiracy – orchestrated by world governments and NASA – to conceal the truth.

The ‘conspiracy’ works because there are dozens of websites which encourage ‘truthers’ to ignore science – and instead rely on their own senses.

Last year, Bobby Ray Simmons Jr, known as rapper B.o.B. argued that the Earth is actually flat in a series of Tweets which drew enraged comments from scientists.

Simmons – who has 2.2 million Twitter followers, said, ‘No matter how high in elevation you are… the horizon is always eye level…sorry cadets…I didn’t wanna believe it either.

A new book by Eric Dubay, The Atlantean Conspiracy, hopes to blow the lid on what he claims is the biggest conspiracy of all time – the fact that world governments are claiming the Earth is round.

Dubay outlines more than 200 arguments for why the Earth is actually flat – not a ball.

He writes, ‘Common sense also says if the Earth were actually a ball spinning daily with uniform speed around the Sun, there should be exactly 12 hour days and 12 hour nights everywhere all year round regardless of any alleged tilt or inclination, half the sphere would always be lit, the other half not!

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

NEWS

Viewers left bemused as woman dances with M&Ms box on her head during Channel 4 news report

The woman stood just behind the news reporter as she performed the bizarre dance - while he talked about Theresa May's visit to the US

BY KARA O'NEILL
11:12, 27 JAN 2017

LADY DANCES WITH M&M'S ON HER HEAD DURING LIVE NEWS REPORT

This is the bizarre moment a woman danced with a box of M&Ms on her head while holding a sign that read 'black candy matters' during a live **Channel 4 news** report.

The woman performed the strange dance for the cameras as Gary Gibbon, speaking from Philadelphia, discussed Theresa May's visit to the US.

In the clip, the woman shimmies back and forth while balancing the **box of chocolates** on her head while waving the sign around.

Meanwhile, the reporter attempts to ignore her, while talking about Theresa May's upcoming meeting with Donald Trump - the first world leader to meet with the new president.

The woman stands behind the reporter with the box on her head (Photo: Channel 4 News)

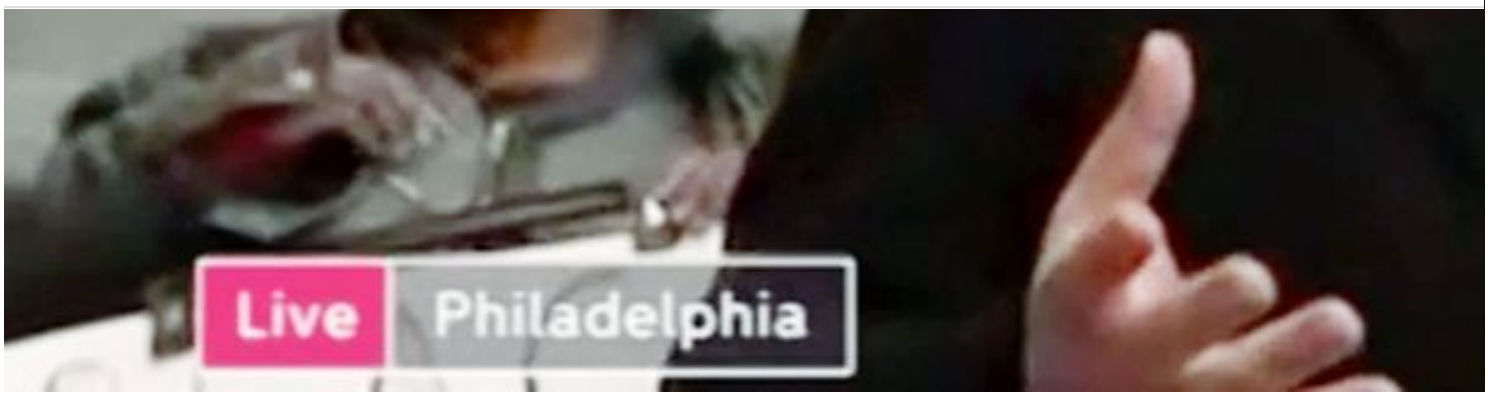
Amazingly, he manages to finish his report, despite the odd distraction, but the woman's presence didn't go unnoticed by viewers.

Within moments, the woman and her box of M&Ms was trending on Twitter, and the clip going **viral** on other social media channels.

READ MORE

Anti-Trump protester filmed punching camera as right wing reporter tries to question him

OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS



The Channel 4 reporter tries to ignore the woman behind him (Photo: Channel 4 News)

OFFERS FANTASY BINGO DATING JOBS BUYSELL COMPETITIONS HOROSCOPES PSYCHIC CARTOONS CROSSWORDS

The woman also held a sign which read 'black candy matters' (Photo: Channel 4 News)

One viewer tweeted: "They're going back to Philadelphia for #c4news later. I hope the M&Ms box hat woman becomes a thing as I want to be her friend."

Peter Cashmore
@TweetCashmore
Follow

They're going back to Philadelphia on #c4news later. I hope the M&Ms box hat woman becomes a thing as I want to be her friend.

11:21 AM - 26 Jan 2017

11 54

Hayley Barlow
@Hayley_Barlow
Follow

For those asking I've no idea why Philly protester with box of M&Ms on her head made impromptu appearance during Gary Gibbon's #c4news live.

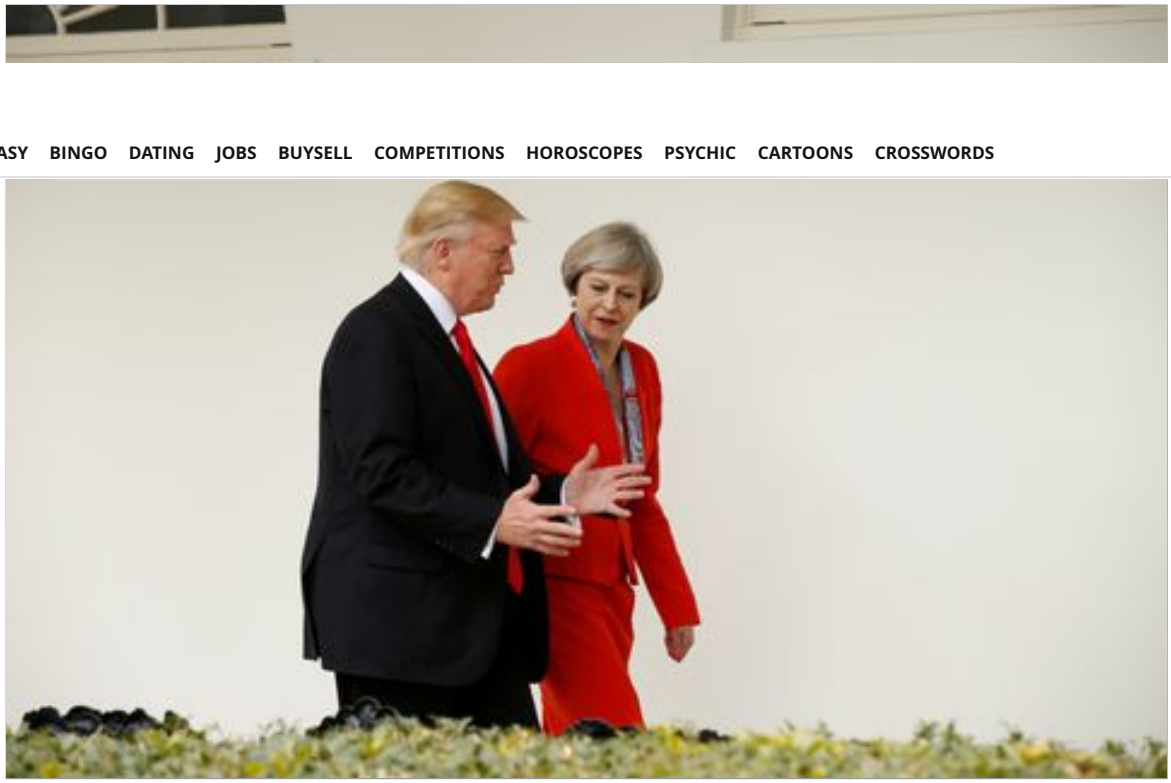
11:14 AM - 26 Jan 2017

54 134

Hayley Barlow, Head of Communications for Channel 4 News added: "For those asking, I've no idea why Philly protester with box of M&Ms on her head made impromptu appearance during Gary Gibbons #c4news live.

READ MORE

Theresa May Visits US And Donald Trump



Trump grabs May by the hand

MORE ON

Channel 4 Viral Chocolate

NEWS ALL

Most Read Most Recent

1

DONALD TRUMP

No, Barack Obama and Jimmy Carter didn't do the same thing as Donald Trump's Muslim ban

2

SADIQ KHAN

Sadiq Khan demands Donald Trump's state visit is cancelled

3

EXORCISM

Distressing footage shows 'possessed' girl kicking and screaming as locals 'exorcise demon from her'

4

DONALD TRUMP

Starbucks boss makes brilliant announcement in response to Donald Trump's refugee ban

LOADING

5

TIGERS

Tourist mauled to 'death by three tigers in front of horrified wife and child after climbing into zoo enclosure'

TOP STORIES ›

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD

"Refugees are welcome - let them in": Hollywood stars unite to condemn Donald Trump's Muslim ban as SAG Awards gets political

LOADING

DONALD TRUMP

Starbucks boss makes brilliant announcement in response to Donald Trump's refugee ban

LOADING

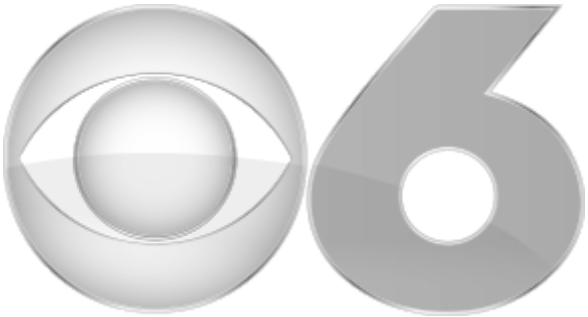
PLANE CRASH

'Wish me luck': Woman's video from inside seaplane moments before it plunged into river killing her and boyfriend

LOADING

Virginia lawmaker proposes bill to declare porn a ‘public health hazard’ wtvr.com

Posted 10:28 pm, December 29, 2016, by Vernon Freeman Jr., Updated at 11:23PM, December 29, 2016



Bob Marshall (PHOTO: Facebook)

RICHMOND, Va. -- A Virginia lawmaker has filed a bill that would declare pornography a public health hazard in Virginia.

State Delegate Bob Marshall, (R-Prince William), proposed the bill that says porn leads to social problems, such as hypersexualization of teenagers and normalizes violence and abuse of women and children.

The bill does not call for a porn ban, only the need for education, research, and policy change to address the “public health crisis.”

Bob Marshall (PHOTO: Facebook)

The legislation says the "pornography epidemic" needs to be addressed on a broad scale to help prevent exposure and addiction.

“When you see more of these episodes of teens texting pictures to each other, there’s obviously an obsession or fixation on the body as an object, not a person,” Marshall said in a recent interview with GayRVA. “It’s not very helpful for social relations or later development of a family. I thought, lets draw a line in the sand.”

Marshall says early exposure to pornography leads to low self-esteem and body image disorders in young people.

The legislation will be considered when 2017 regular session of the General Assembly begins on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

Online Public File • Terms of Service • Privacy Policy
• 3301 W Broad Street Richmond VA 23230
• Copyright © 2016, WTVR
• A Tribune Broadcasting Station • Powered by WordPress.com VIP

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

WEIRD NEWS

Man Dressed As Waldo From 'Where's Waldo' Taunts Police Searching For Him

"Dude ... I'm right here."

01/10/2017 02:49 pm ET | **Updated** 6 hours ago

David Moye
Reporter, The Huffington Post

Ghostery blocked Vidible video player.

Man Dressed As Waldo From 'Where's Waldo' Taunts Police Searching For Him

Police in North Yorkshire, U.K., spent the weekend looking for 30-year-old J.J. McMenamin, after he missed a court date for alleged traffic violations.

They were unable to find him despite the use of sniffer dogs and a police helicopter, according to the BBC.

McMenamin decided to poke fun at the officer's expense by dressing up as Waldo, the main character in the "Where's Waldo" series of children's books. The books challenge readers to find Waldo in pictures of huge crowds.

In one Facebook post, McMenamin taunted police by superimposing his own face over the character's face with the words, "Dude ... I'm right here."

In another post, he wrote:

> *"Buddy if they really new how close they are too me, not a scooby do where I am. Even got sniffer dogs out and I'm still sat giggling" [sic].*

McMenamin wrote in another post that has since been removed that he had watched one officer "pull out a wedgie" after trying to climb a garden fence.

"I nearly felt sorry for him and was gunna go back give him a hand over but he had a taser - f—k that [sic]," he added, according to the Telegraph.

Meanwhile, McMenamin continued to post taunting pics of himself dressed as Waldo as well as graphics declaring himself the "Hide and Seek Champion 2016-17."

McMenamin also posted videos including one with the Lionel Richie song, "Hello," where he laughed at the line, "Is it me you're looking for?" according to Sky News.

Eventually, McMenamin decided to stop kidding around and turned himself into police, but not before posting a Facebook Live video showing himself being driven to the police station dressed as Waldo.

Man Dressed As Waldo From 'Where's Waldo' Taunts Police Searching For Him

detained according to UK news...

A spokeswoman for the North Yorkshire Police would not say if McMenamin was in custody but did tell the BBC that "a 30-year-old man from Middleham has been arrested after he handed himself in to officers at Harrogate police station," adding that the arrest came "after extensive police searches for the man over the weekend."

Also on HuffPost

Tiny Crime Scenes

More: North Yorkshire Police Waldo

Suggest a correction

Comments

CONVERSATIONS

Advertise RSS Careers FAQ
User Agreement Privacy Comment Policy About Us About Our Ads Contact Us Archive
Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

This ad is supporting your extension *Allow Right-Click*: More info | Privacy Policy | Hide on this page

Man Dressed As Waldo From ‘Where’s Waldo’ Taunts Police Searching For Him

Brother of man found in the Amazon after walking from Canada reveals his joy

thesun.co.uk

Anton Pilipa is thought to have passed through several countries and two continents during his epic 12,000 mile journey

By DANNY COLLINS
9th February 2017, 10:38 am

A CANADIAN man found in the Amazon five years after disappearing from his Toronto home survived on berries during his epic barefoot jolly – and it was all to reach an Argentine library.

Anton Pilipa's family had all-but given up hope of seeing him again after he disappeared from his Canadian home in 2012.

But they received the surprise of their lives in December when Brazilian police called to say they had found the 39-year-old.

And now his brother Stefan has revealed the family's "shock" when he was found.

6
Anton's journey is believed to have begun as a quest to reach the Buenos Aires National Library of Argentina and turned into a 12,000 mile jaunt around two continents

Go Fund Me / Stefan Pilipa
6
Anton, left, was reunited with his brother Stefan, right, five years after he disappeared from his Toronto home. He was discovered in the Brazilian city of Manaus

He told the Mail: "I told myself that he was dead. Because that was the only thing I could come up with that explained his absence.

"But in my heart of hearts, I didn't think he could be. I was really shocked."

Yesterday The Sun revealed how Anton – who had been suffering from mental illness – had traipsed all the way to the Amazonian city of Manaus, some 6,500 miles away.

The journey saw him pass through Mexico, some of central America's most dangerous gang-infested cities and the humid tropics of Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

During the walk he survived on fruit, nuts and berries while also being handed food by generous strangers.

Now it has emerged that Anton's epic journey was even **LONGER** and was all part of a bizarre dream of reaching Argentina's National Library in capital Buenos Aires.

Yet despite his exertions, he was turned away at the doors and began walking back – ending up in Manaus where he was found.

That led to a dangerous walk through the deadly Amazonian rainforest in which he admits meeting "bad men".

Anton added: "I've never felt alone. It's been a lot of thinking for years, sleeping in the open. It's very simple to live, we do not need many things."

He also admitted to the BBC: "I know that I am very lucky to be alive. I am very happy to be able to return to my family."

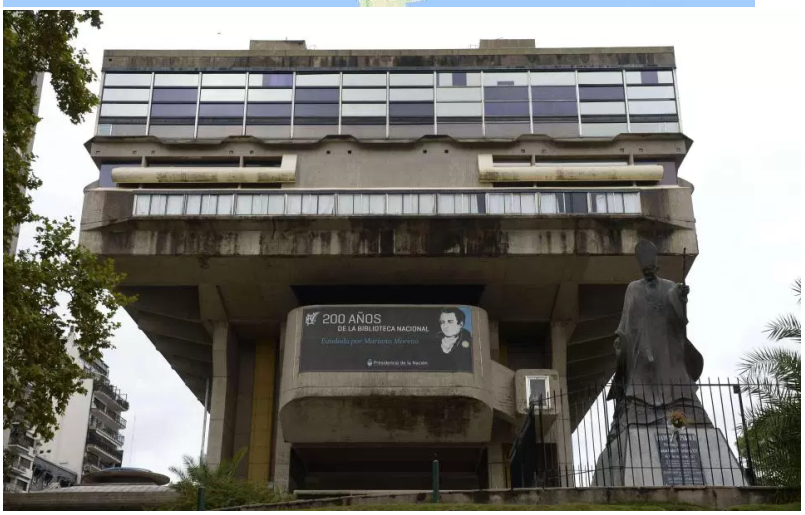
And despite spending five years on the road during his 12,000-mile round-trip, he is thought to have barely spoken to anyone on his travels or picked up any Portuguese or Spanish.

It is a journey that would leave even British celebrity explorer Levison Wood blushing.

The TV star recently appeared in hit TV show Walking the Americas where he walked from northern Mexico through central America to the Colombian border.

But even that mind-blowing journey comes in at less than a fifth of Anton's jaunt.

6
Anton's epic journey saw him travel at least 12,000 miles from Toronto to Manaus via Argentine capital Buenos Aires
Getty Images
6
He is believed to embarked on the epic journey in a bizarre bid to reach the National Library in Argentine capital Buenos Aires. When he arrived at its doors, he was turned away



Anton completed much of his journey without shoes.

The family were finally reunited on Monday when Anton was jetted back to Canada after Stefan flew out to get him.

They had only been given the news after Anton's chance encounter with a Canadian-Brazilian police officer near Manaus.

Cop Helenice Vidigal picked up Anton as he walked along a main road.

She soon noticed something was not right and began to probe him on his background, finally realising he was Canadian.

She told CBC: “I knew he didn’t belong to that road. Anton is a different type from us Brazilians, he stands out.

“I thought, if he says he’s Canadian, I’m sure I can find his family.”

6
Anton’s family had almost given up hope of finding him again but were given the shock of their lives when Brazilian police contacted them after a police woman quizzed Anton on his background

6
Stefan rushed out to Brazil to help bring his brother home and was finally able to do so on Monday – five years after he vanished

Sure enough, Helenice was able to track down Anton’s family and contacted a “shocked” Stefan.

He immediately jetted out to Brazil to find a way of getting his brother back, who by his own admission “looked really rough”.

But the plan faced disaster when Anton fled into the jungle, leaving his family fearing he would be attacked by its big cats or crocodiles.

When he was finally discovered Stefan was able to take him back to Canada.

Yet despite his horrific ordeal he was arrested over years-old assault charges upon his return.

He was released on bail but will face court over the charges.

©News Group Newspapers Limited in England No. 679215 Registered office: 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. "The Sun", "Sun", "Sun Online" are registered trademarks or trade names of News Group Newspapers Limited. This service is provided on News Group Newspapers' Limited's Standard Terms and Conditions in accordance with our Privacy & Cookie Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material, visit our Syndication site. View our online Press Pack. For other inquiries, Contact Us. To see all content on The Sun, please use the Site Map. The Sun website is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px*

!important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Wanted part-time in Austria: A hermit

stuff.co.nz

Last updated 07:00, January 13 2017

Guntram Hufler Saalfelden in winter. The the hermitage is habitable only between April and November, as it is unheated.

Wanted, part-time: A hermit. Experience not necessary.

Municipal and Roman Catholic church officials in the Austrian town of Saalfelden are looking for someone to live in a nearby hermitage built into steep cliffs characteristic of the Salzburg region.

But a second job is advisable.

The parish website says the position is unpaid. And because it's unheated and without running water, the hermitage is habitable only between April and November.

State broadcaster *ORF* on Thursday cited cleric Alois Moser as saying the search is on for "a person at peace with himself."

Moser says the successful candidate also should have a Christian outlook and be ready to greet visiting pilgrims.

The more than 350-year-old building has been uninhabited since a Benedictine monk left in the fall.

- AP

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

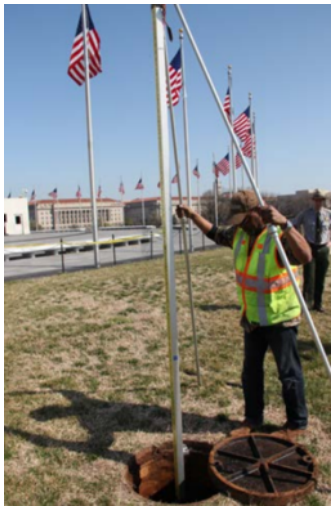
Washington Mini Monument

atlasobscura.com

White arrow marks the Mini Monument
Detail of the Mini Monument NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (Public Domain)
NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Yellow dashes indicate modern ground level
Mathew Brady (Public Domain)
Detail of the Washington Monument foundation Library of Congress (Public Domain)
White arrow marks the Mini Monument
Detail of the Mini Monument NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (Public Domain)
NOAA's National Geodetic Survey

Unknown to most passersby, there's a 12-foot-tall replica of the Washington Monument under a manhole near the actual monument.

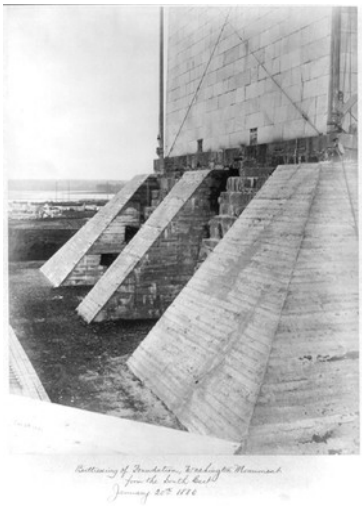
Officially known as "Bench Mark A," this underground oddity is actually a Geodetic Control Point that's used by surveyors. It's part of the network of a million control points across the country that helps the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) synchronize all of the government's maps.



According to NGS modernization manager Dru Smith, "Geodetic control points provide starting points for any map or measurement. It has to be more accurate than any measurement you do on top of it, so we pick things that tend to be extremely stable."

Usually that means metal caps or rods that are driven down into the ground, but this quirky control point mirrors the form of its next-door neighbor.

"All the surveys we've done, going back to the early 1900s, have used it," says Smith. Most recently, it was used in the aftermath of the 2011 Washington earthquake. Measurements over the past century have shown that the Washington Monument has sunk 6.2 cm into the marshy soil below, at an average rate of 0.5 mm per year.



The mini monument was placed in the 1880s as a part of a trans-continental leveling program. The ground level here was much lower at that time, with large parts of the Washington Monument foundation still visible above ground (see fourth image above). The mini monument was above ground for a time, before being encased in a brick chimney and buried. Outside of surveying circles, it's been largely forgotten.

Know Before You Go

The survey marker is underneath a manhole, just south of the Washington Monument. Speak to a Park Ranger before trying to see it.

Sources

- Phone interview with Dru Smith, 1/26/2017

38.8891
-77.0352
© 2017 Atlas Obscura. All rights reserved.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Wearing shark repelling band, Teen gets attacked by shark

by Jana Eschbach Wednesday, December 28th 2016
NORTH HUTCHINSON ISLAND —

cbs12.com

A shark attacked a local surfer, landing the teen in the hospital with a massive jaws bite on his arm.

SharkAttack2.PNG

poster_572dc85acc4649d

A shark attacked a local surfer, landing the teen in the hospital with a massive jaws bite on his arm.

"I just got out of the water as quickly as possible because I didn't want to get hit again." Zack Davis said, holding his right bandaged arm.

The attack happened near Avalon Beach State Park on North Hutchinson Island.

Zack was discharged from the hospital Wednesday night. He says he is recovering, but sore and tired after being “mostly awake” in the hospital for the last 24 hours.

Zack's right arm has a giant jaw mark on it, now covered in stitches. His doctors say it looks like the work of a black tip shark.

Vero Beach High School student Zack Davis wanted to catch just one more wave Tuesday.

“It didn’t look bad. There weren’t any bait fish or anything,” said Zack Davis, "I felt it hit because my hand was on the sand and I was getting turned by the wave and I felt it grab on like 2-3 seconds and I came up out the water and was like I just got bit."

Zack did some quick thinking in blood-stained water.

"It was like shocking. It wasn't really painful. Honestly I wasn't really in pain I was just like oh my gosh I need to do something with this quick, so I just took my leash from my board and just wrapped it around my arm because I didn't want to lose any blood." Zack said.

Zack and his twin brother Zane often go shark fishing, and they’ve surfed since they were young.

This was the first time he's even had a close encounter with a shark.

This attack left him with a giant jaw mark on his arm and 44 stitches.

"It held on for less than 3 seconds. I didnt even have a chance to hit him or anything." Zack said.

Zack was wearing a new band with magnetic technology that advertises it repels sharks away from swimmers.

"I got this for Christmas,” Zack said, showing us the green plastic band that looks like a watch with no face, “It is a shark band and it was supposed to keep sharks away and the first time I wore it, and I go surfing a lot, but the first time I wore it- I get bit."

Zack's mom, who is shaken by all this says she hopes to at least get her $80 back for the Shark Banz that didn't work.

We reached out to an email press contact for the Shark Banz company, but have yet to hear a response.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

History fan spends £32,000 on buying a field - and discovers lost city

05:28 EST, 3 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

The lost city of Trellech: History fan spends his £32,000 life savings buying a field on a hunch - then is proved spectacularly right when he digs it up to discover the remains of a medieval town

- **Stuart Wilson, 37, used his life savings to buy 4.6acre plot of land 12 years ago**
- **He believed there were secrets below the soil - and has now been proved right**
- **Mr Wilson discovered the ancient industrial town of Trellech, South Wales**
- **Site dates back to the 13th century and was home to around 10,000 people**

By Steph Cockroft for MailOnline

A history fan who spent his £32,000 life savings buying a field because he believed there were secrets hidden below the soil has been proved right after unearthing a lost medieval city.

Stuart Wilson bought the 4.6 acre plot of land in South Wales more than a decade ago, because he believed it would become significant in Norman history.

Now, twelve years on, the 37-year-old has pieced together his findings to unveil the site as the ancient industrial town of Trellech, South Wales.

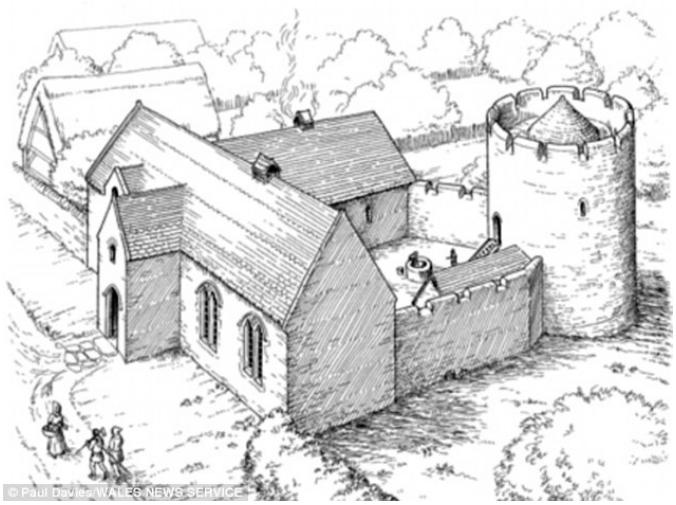
Scroll down for video

History fan Stuart Wilson (pictured) spent his £32,000 life savings on a buying a field before diggin it up to discover a lost medieval city

The 37-year-old bought the 4.6 acre plot of land because he was convinced there were secrets hidden below the soil. Pictured is an artefact that he found on the site

Mr Wilson discovered the ancient industrial town of Trellech, South Wales, when he became excavation. Pictured is another artefact found on the site

So far, Mr Wilson and his volunteers have discovered a manor house (pictured in an artist's impression) with two halls and a courtyard, enclosed with



curtain walls and a massive Round Tower

The city, which lies between Monmouth and Trelleck, is believed to date back to the 13th century and is thought to have been home to around 10,000 people, including Norman lords of the de Clare family who used it as a place to mass produce iron.

So far, Mr Wilson and his volunteers have discovered the remains of a manor house with two halls and a courtyard, enclosed with curtain walls and a massive Round Tower.

Within that manor house complex, the group has discovered several different rooms - both with fireplaces.

The volunteers have also found a well, in which they have discovered a nearly complete medieval pot, metal work, wooden objects and parts of leather shoes.

Mr Wilson - a former toll booth worker who moved back in with his parents so he could afford his field of dreams - said the discovery was highly significant.

He said: 'This is a massive settlement dating back to the 13th century.

'At its peak, we're talking about a population of maybe around 10,000 people. In comparison, there were 40,000 in London, so it's quite large.

He said the settlement was the home of several Norman lords of the de Clare family who used it as a place to mass produce iron. Pictured is another artefact found on the site

Mr Wilson, a former toll booth worker, lived with his parents so he could finance his field of dreams and says the decision has fully paid off. It is pictured during excavation

Mr Wilson has hundreds of volunteers ever year to help him with his excavation and is seeking planning permission for an education centre

'This population grew from nothing to that size within 25 years. Now it took 250 years for London to get to 40,000 people, so we're talking a massive expansion.

'And that's just the planned settlement. The slums would have been quite numerous. There you would be talking even 20,000 plus. It's a vast area.'

He added that, from what had been discovered so far, it appears as though the inhabitants' life would have been tough.

'If you're working in the fields you are living hand to mouth every single day - it's a really hard existence,' he said.

The huge settlement is believed to date back to the 13th century. Another artefact is pictured

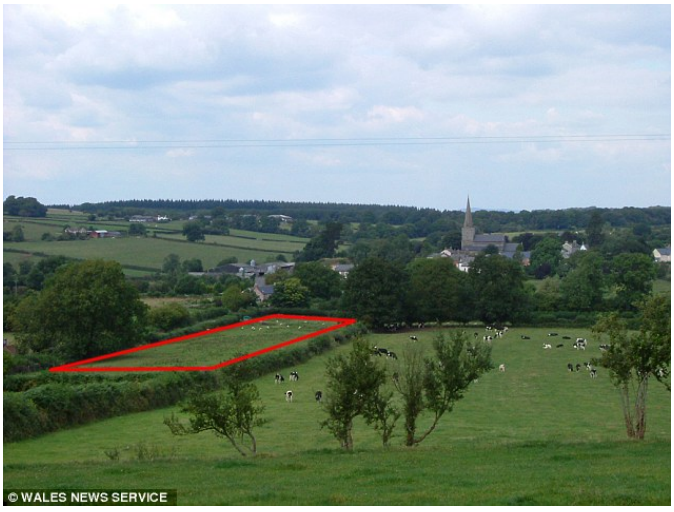
Mr Wilson said the population swelled to tens of thousands within just 25 years. Pictured above are more artefacts he found under the field

'Suddenly, a big industrial town comes here, this is a great opportunity for you.

'You up-sticks - to hell with your land - 'let's move to the industrial town where the opportunity is'.'

He said the settlement was the home of several Norman lords of the de Clare family who used it as a place to mass produce iron.

'It probably had a population about a quarter of the size of medieval London, and it grew from nothing at a much faster rate over 25 years in the mid 1200s,' he added.



The field on top of the lost city is shown in a red outline above before excavation work began

Mr Wilson says the field (pictured during excavation) is an important site to study Norman life

Mr Wilson said that, at its peak, there was a population of maybe around 10,000 people, compared with 40,000 in London. A well found on the site is pictured left while volunteers are seen busy at work, right

The buildings appear seem to date back to 1300 A.D. when the town was reorganised and built in stone after the attacks by both English and Welsh forces in the previous decade.

Mr Wilson said evidence of the earlier town has been found below some of the buildings, with occupation on the site believed to have started 100 years previously.

By 1400 some of the buildings had fallen into ruin and by 1650 after the civil war the last of the buildings were abandoned.

The buildings appear seem to date back to 1300 A.D. when the town was reorganised and built in stone after the attacks by both English and Welsh forces in the previous decade. Volunteers are pictured on site during the excavation

Mr Wilson - who had to live with his parents to afford the field - says he has no regrets about his bizarre

purchase. Volunteers are pictured working on the site during excavation

Excavation work began in 2005 and volunteers have already discovered several interesting artefacts, as well as a manor house

Mr Wilson has hundreds of volunteers ever year to help him with his excavation and is seeking planning permission for an education centre.

He said: 'As we take more on, there's a greater need to expand our campsite and while there are several campsites within a walkable distance, it would be better to have something here.'

Mr Wilson, who began excavation work in 2005, says he has no regrets about his bizarre purchase.

He said: 'I should have really bought a house and got out from my parents' but I thought: "To hell with my parents, I will stay at home and I shall buy a field instead".

'People said "you must be mad".'

Comments (550)

Share what you think

The comments below have not been moderated.

Scroggins, Florida, United States, about 2 hours ago

I applaud his dedication to history. Good to know that he has hundreds of volunteers to help him.

SpongeBobroundpants, Birmingham, United Kingdom, about 4 hours ago

37?.....

Alvelon, Melbourne Australia, Australia, about 4 hours ago

PLANTAGENET,, CONNECTED TO THE EARLS OF ESSEX AND EWE DUKES OF BUCKINGHAM.. ....FERRERS AND SHIRLEY FAMILY'S BY BLOOD LINE ... FERRER'S AS TO THE NAME FERROUS METALS AS TO ARMORERS FOR WILLIAM THE CONQUER ...

just an opinion, Bridgend, about 4 hours ago

Historians know about the industrial town that Trellech once was. It is still there as a small village (nice pub) with 2 large prehistoric stones, called Arthur's stones. It's described on the large local tourist maps in the village. But this good soul spent his money on digging the site, which archeologists obviously hadn't bothered with.

Alvelon, Melbourne Australia, Australia, about 4 hours ago

NEEDING TO BE POLITICALLY CORRECT COMES INTO IT....

bigKev6977, Atlantis, about 5 hours ago

good man! hopefully you can get some TV time soon....

jose luis, mexico city, Mexico, about 5 hours ago

interesting to know the opinion of his parents

Vega4000, London, United Kingdom, about 5 hours ago

Great story - worthy of a hollywood follow up.

jhl, Liverpool, about 6 hours ago

Good luck to him with his Museum plans. In last few years I have had a few holidays at nearby Tintern hope this is open for a look when I return later in the year. council must support him.

Corbycom, London, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Now there is someone who really deserves a knighthood.

mal51, yeovil, about 6 hours ago

Beats the pillocks of 'Time Team"

View all

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Whale penis' sculpture in Kirkcaldy 'falling to bits'

scotsman.com

TANYA SCOON

14:5815:57Thursday 09 February 2017

An "iconic" piece of artwork, created to welcome people to Kirkcaldy, is "falling to bits" just two years after being installed on the town's Esplanade.

But the artist behind the piece says he will visit it within the next week to assess its state, and carry out repairs if they are necessary.

The 30-foot high sculpture by world-renowned artist David Mach, was commissioned by Morrison's supermarket for £35,000 as part of a planning condition for its Kirkcaldy store which opened in 2013.

However, the abstract piece, entitled Phantom, encountered numerous delays and was not installed until February 2015.

It features a wave-shaped piece of driftwood covered in metal tacks, designed to catch and reflect the light.

But many of the nails have rusted and are falling off, while parts of the wood underneath are crumbling away, leaving gaps.

One reader contacted the Fife Free Press to say it was dangerous and could cause injury to passing children or animals.

When The Scotsman's sister paper, the Fife Free Press investigated, they rpeorted finding dozens of metal tacks, some rusted and some not, scattered around the plinth, with some falling down on to the pavement used by pedestrians, dog walkers and cyclists to get to the supermarket.

While many shoppers at Morrison's told the Fife Free Press they did not notice the sculpture, others described it as "an eyesore" while several said they wouldn't miss it if it was taken away.

Rodney Hunter, 57, said: "I live along the other end and hadn't noticed how bad it was, but I think it was a waste of time and money. We could have had something else there that people recognised.

"I wouldn't miss it if it had to go."

A lady, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "I live along the road and pass it every day, and it's a real eyesore. It is all rusty and looks awful and the nails are all falling out.

"People ride their bikes up here at night and they could easily get a puncture if they don't notice the nails and ride over them. A child could also pick one up. It is dangerous."

Another added: "It hasn't even been up that long and it is falling to bits already."

Councillor Neil Crooks, chairman of the Kirkcaldy area committee, said: "My view is this piece is an embarrassment to David Mach, who is a well respected artist.

"The group which chose his work probably felt they were in safe hands with such an eminent Scottish artist.

"I would not be sorry to see it taken down as it has rusted and deteriorated very quickly and certainly did not achieve the ambition of the area committee, which requested an "iconic piece" of public art to mark the entry to

the Waterfront. Thankfully the committee had nothing to do with choosing this piece and it would be widely welcomed if it was taken down.

"I actually thought it was unfinished and maybe rushed into place to meet a deadline, unlike the artwork on the walls which has stood the test of time and reflects the history of the area.

"People have called Mach's work a whale's penis, but since its erection it has not brought a lot of pleasure to its surroundings."

Marilyn Livingstone, one of a number of judges on the panel which chose the Mach design, added: "We chose this because we thought it was the best design and it was by a local and renowned artist.

"If it has not lived up to expectations then Morrison's who commissioned it should get back to the artist to get it fixed."

Mr Mach said he would check it to see if work needed done.

"It was a new piece and it was untested in the way of making it," he said.

"It is certainly the ugliest thing I have ever made, but it is a really powerful sculpture and that's part of it.

"It is meant to rust and discolour in parts, but I don't like the idea of nails falling off it.

"I will go up next week and check it out. If it is really beginning to fall to bits I will repair it and if the worst comes to the worst, I might need to take it down."

A spokesman for Morrison's added: "Our colleagues have tidied the area. We are looking into the longer term maintenance of the artwork."

• *This article first appeared in our sister newspaper* ***Fife Free Press***

© Johnston Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.

When the Dead Walked in Haiti: The Strange Story of Clairvius Narcisse

oddlyhistorical.com

Zombies have taken over the cultural zeitgeist in recent years. They are the go to horror movie monster, dominating media from video games to commercials to TV shows. Even the government has jumped on the bandwagon, using the phenomena as a way to promote disaster preparedness. It has gotten to the point that there are some who seriously believe that an outbreak of zombies like the ones seen in movies could happen in reality.

However, this is not to say that zombies are not real, in a sense. The modern zombie cultural phenomenon can trace its origins back to George Romero's classic 1968 B-movie, *Night of the Living Dead*. The low-budget flick depicted a horde of "ghouls," they were never once called zombies in the movie, attacking hapless victims trapped in a rural farm house. While *Night of the Living Dead* was the first modern zombie movie, it was not the first zombie movie. That honor goes to the 1932 Universal pictures film, *White Zombie*, starring Bela Lugosi as a sorcerer with a stable full of voodoo zombies to do his bidding. This movie was the Hollywood interpretation of a longstanding Haitian folk tradition, where bokors or witch doctors use foul magic to enslave the souls of victims. Far from mere superstition, the voodoo zombie phenomenon was and may still be a very real reality in Haiti, where the dead are said to walk among the living.

Clairvius Narcisse

Clairvius Narcisse, a Modern Zombie?

On April 30th, 1962, a man by the name of Clairvius Narcisse checked himself into the Albert Scheitzer Hospital in Deschapelle, Haiti. Narcisse had been suffering fevers and body aches leading up to his visit to the hospital, but the tipping point was when he began to cough up blood. Upon being admitted to the hospital, Narcisse's condition went downhill rapidly. He began to suffer from a variety of symptoms: pulmonary edema, hypothermia, trouble breathing, hypotension, and digestive problems. At one point, his lips turned blue, and he reported that his entire body was tingling. By May 2nd, Narcisse was pronounced dead by an American doctor and an American-trained doctor, both who were baffled by the man's sudden rapid deterioration. His oldest sister identified his body, and Clairvius Narcisse was laid to rest the next day, or so the Narcisse family thought.

Eighteen years later, Narcisse was discovered by his sister Angelina in a village market place, when he approached her claiming to be her long dead brother. He identified himself with a childhood nickname unknown outside of close family circles, and a subsequent investigation with help from the Narcisse family proved that the man claiming to be Clairvius Narcisse knew other things about the family not known by outsiders. For all intents and purposes, the man claiming to be Claivius Narcisse was indeed who he said he was. His story was a strange and shocking one: he claimed to have been turned into a zombie.

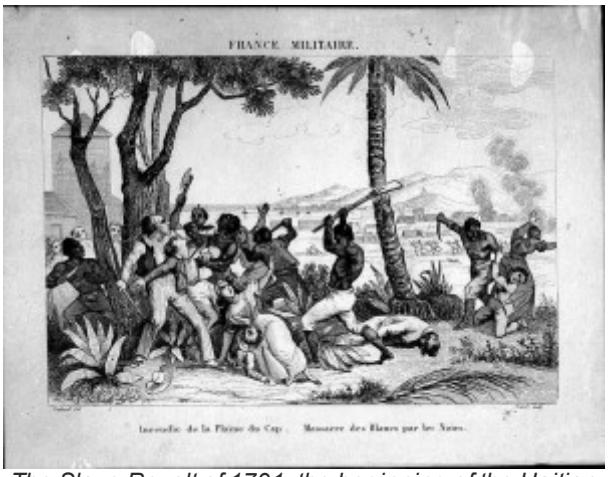
A Wild Story

According to Narcisse, he was conscious but unable to move through the whole ordeal of being declared dead, being zipped into a body bag, and even during his burial. Sometime later, Narcisse claimed he was dug out of his grave by a bokor and his helpers, who beat him senseless and transported him to a sugar plantation. Once on the plantation, the hapless Narcisse and other zombies would labor from sunup to sundown, only stopping for one small meal a day. This time was passed in a dream-like state, and his memories of the two years he spent on the plantation were fuzzy. His imprisonment came to an end one day when a fellow zombie rebelled and killed the bokor with a hoe. Free from the thrall of the witchdoctor, the zombies then escaped. Narcisse wandered the Haitian countryside for the next 16 years, attempting unsuccessfully to contact his family. He only returned home after his brother's death, believing his brother was responsible for the ordeal.

The Magic of the Bokors

It is easy to dismiss Clairvius Narcisse's wild story as a fraud, but to do so would be to show a grave misunderstanding of both human psychology in general and the Haitian culture in particular. The belief in zombies dates back something like five hundred years in Haiti, and stems from much older African spiritual beliefs .

The word zombie comes from the word *Nzambi*, meaning "spirit of a dead person." This complex folkloric tradition was transported to Haiti with slaves, mixing with Catholic beliefs and other fragments of spiritual traditions to become voodoo. Haitian slaves brought up in this milieu in the 1600's believed that upon death their spirits would return to an idealized Africa, but those who committed suicide to escape the horrors of slavery would become zombies, trapped in undeath and bound to an even more horrific form of slavery than that they endured in life.



The Slave Revolt of 1791, the beginning of the Haitian Revolution.

After the Haitian Revolution of 1804, the French were driven from the country, and slavery as it had been practiced for over 200 years came to an end. The practice cast a long shadow though, manifesting in the renewed zombie folklore, where the voodoo bokor took a prominent role, becoming the ones who reanimated corpses with their magic and used them as slave labor. In a sense, slavery under the French left an indelible imprint on the soul of Haiti, a lingering fear that found its expression in the pervasive belief in zombies.

This is the cultural environment that Clairvius Narcisse grew up in. He would have known what zombies were, and what it meant to be branded as a zombie; namely, to be labeled a social pariah and outcast. He would have had no reason to lie about his experiences. With the possibility of fraud discounted, the unsettling explanation for the strange story is that there might well be something to the stories of zombies. When Dr. Nathan Kline, a psychopharmacologist heard of the case, he sought to verify that Narcisse was who he claimed, and proving that, went on to attempt to figure out what happened. He dispatched Harvard graduate student Wade Davis to Haiti to find what substance the bokors used to create their undead servants.

Zombie Powder and Datura: Ingredients for Zombification

Davis was able to secure samples of zombie powder from several bokors. Their recipes for the concoction varied, but three ingredients were constants: ground human bones, plants with irritating hairs, and dried pufferfish. The bones and plant hairs were meant to irritate the skin of victims, causing them to scratch and open up small wounds that would force the active ingredient of the powder into their blood streams. The active ingredient is believed to be tetrodotoxin, a deadly poison found in the skin and organs of the pufferfish. Five hundred times more powerful than cyanide, the poison blocks nerve transmissions, resulting in the same symptoms Clairvius Narcisse suffered in the hospital on the day he was declared dead. Depending on the dosage, it also causes a state of paralysis that is difficult to distinguish from actual death. However, the victim is fully lucid during the ordeal.

The zombie powder would be blown into the victims face, or applied to the skin on open wounds. Sometimes, due to the variance of the amount of tetrodotoxin between individual pufferfish, several applications were needed to generate the desired effects. In these cases, the powder could be surreptitiously put into the victim's clothing.

Once the victim enters into the paralyzed state and is buried alive, the bokor then goes to the grave site and digs up the "corpse," who has perhaps suffered some brain damage due to oxygen deprivation and most certainly has suffered psychological trauma during the entire ordeal. These factors can make the newly unearthed zombie more pliable, but the sure-fire next step for a bokor is to feed his new undead servant a paste of sweet potatoes, cane syrup, and *Datura*, the zombie cucumber. *Datura* contains atropine and scopolamine, hallucinogens that induce a variety of psychological effects such as confusion, psychosis, and amnesia. The hallucinogenic brew keeps the victim pliant to the will of the bokor. To further sap the strength and will of the zombie, they are fed a salt-free diet.

Zombification: the Ultimate Punishment?

Haitian folklore claims that the bokors used their zombies as slaves to perform free labor on their plantations. However, people who go through the ordeal of zombification are not likely to make the best manual laborers. Many would be more or less vegetables, depending how long they were underground, and those who weren't would be suffering the effects of *Datura* and might well be out of their minds. It is clear from Narcisse's account that bokors would extract physical labor from their slaves, but given the high unemployment rate in Haiti both then (and now,) cheap labor not suffering under the effects of zombification was not in short supply. If this was the case, there was little economic incentive to turn someone into a zombie. If that were the case, zombies would be mass produced.

The motivation to create zombies, far from being for economic reasons, stems from the social norms of Haitian culture. Rooted in ancient memories of the horrors of slavery, to become a zombie is to become the ultimate slave. It is to literally lose one's self, and to become an automaton of flesh at the beck and call of another. Zombies are not made to create a labor force, but rather to punish those who break the social norms. It is the ultimate punishment for those who refuse to play by society's rules.

A good example of this is Clairvius Narcisse himself. Due to his extraordinary story, it is natural to see him in a sympathetic light, but those who knew Narcisse before his untimely death likely would not have shared the sentiment. Narcisse was a difficult man to deal with, to say the least. He regularly fought with family members. He fathered children out of wedlock and refused to be responsible for them. He became wealthy at the expense of others, and drew much jealousy in his village for being among the first to upgrade his house from a thatch roof to a tin roof.

None of this in itself warranted the punishment of zombification, but his most serious infraction came when he refused to give up his share of the family land to his brother, who was trying to support a family. Haitians, living on an island nation that has historically relied primarily on agriculture to support itself, take matters involving land rights very seriously. They could quite literally be life or death for a family who cannot access land needed to support itself. So, when Narcisse refused to give his land to his brother who was in need, he crossed a line and his punishment was to be turned into a zombie.

Zombies: A Haitian Phenomenon

It is clear from the story of Clairvius Narcisse and others that the zombie phenomenon is very real in Haiti. However, this does not mean that zombie-phobes out there need to hole up in their zombie apocalypse bunker just yet. Zombies in Haiti stem from a deeply rooted cultural system that grew out of the horrors of slavery and colonialism. It is an outgrowth of the Haitian psyche and the mish-mash of cultural, spiritual, and religious influences that came together in the tiny island nation.

Put short, zombies can only happen in Haiti. Certainly, dosing an American with tetrodotoxin and then dosing them with *Datura* would induce the medical effects noted earlier in the article, but without growing up in the cultural context of Haiti, the effects would be limited to their physical and psychological components. They would lack the spiritual and social connotations they have for someone brought up in a culture who believes deeply and wholeheartedly in zombies. To Clairvius, and other poor souls who have fallen victim to zombification, the process is the culmination of their deepest cultural anxieties. The horror they must have felt would have been increased to the nth degree compared to that of an outsider, because in their minds they would suffering the worst fate a person could suffer: losing their soul and becoming a mindless slave.

In the end, zombies can be seen as a product of a culture deeply influenced by slavery, rather than the product of magic or sorcery. While the pharmacological factors at work in the process cannot be ignored, in the end a person becomes a zombie in their own mind. The rituals and medications given simply act as vehicles who bring the cultural belief embedded into the person's mind into their reality. It is not clear whether the practice continues in modern Haiti. As secret and taboo as the ritual was, it is very possible that zombies are still being created in remote parts of Haiti even today, unbeknownst to the outside world.

Sources:

Atwill, Mark. *Haitian Zombies*. Isciencemag.co.uk. January 30, 2014. I, Science. February 5, 2017. Retrieved from: http://www.isciencemag.co.uk/features/haitian-zombies/

Ginalis, Elizabeth. *Zombification Process*. Sites.duke.edu. 2014. Nathan S. Kline's Zombi in Haiti. February 5. 2017. Retrieved from: https://sites.duke.edu/ginalisgh323/zombification-process/

Hahn, Patrick D. *Dead Man Walking: Wade Davis and the Secret of the Zombie Poison.* Biology-online.org. September 4, 2007. Biology-Online. February 5, 2019. Retrieved from: http://www.biology-online.org/articles/dead_man_walking.html?mobile=on

Mariani, Mike. *The Tragic, Forgotten History of Zombies*. TheAtlantic.com. October 28, 2015. The Atlantic. February 5, 2017. Retrieved from: https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/10/how-america-erased-the-tragic-history-of-the-zombie/412264/

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Who tried to steal this concrete buffalo?

Suspect in attempted theft of concrete buffalo Jan. 14. *(submitted)*

By **Barbara Miller | bmiller@pennlive.com**
Email the author | **Follow on Twitter**
on January 18, 2017 at 1:47 PM, updated January 18, 2017 at 1:58 PM

Police are looking for the man in a Honda Civic who tried to steal a large concrete buffalo from a Lower Swatara Township business Jan. 14, police said.

A suspect is seen on surveillance footage trying to steal the statue from Coin Wrap around 10:40 p.m. in the 1900 block of Fulling Mill Road, and damaged it in the process, said Lower Swatara Township police.

The man tried to carry the three-foot statue and couldn't do it, police said. It was knocked over and a horn was broken off.

Anyone with information is asked to call Lower Swatara Township Police via Dauphin County Control at 717-558-6900; call Dauphin County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-262-3080 or submit a tip on its **web site.**

Pa. court revives lawsuit over death of suicidal woman who escaped Holy Spirit Hospital

Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2016 PA Media Group. All rights reserved (**About Us**).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of PA Media Group.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

Ad Choices

Wife, stepson charged in murder of KKK leader

nypost.com

By Joshua Rhett Miller

February 13, 2017 11:57am | Updated February 13, 2017 | 3:28pm

The wife and stepson of a Ku Klux Klan leader who was found fatally shot over the weekend have been charged in his murder, it was reported Monday.

Malissa Ann Ancona, 44, and Paul Edward Jinkerson Jr., 24, were charged with first-degree murder, tampering with physical evidence and abandonment of a corpse in connection with the death of Frank Ancona, 51, whose body was found Saturday near the Big River by a family fishing near Belgrade, about 70 miles southwest of St. Louis, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports.

Jinkerson, according to a probable cause statement, shot Frank Ancona on Thursday in his bedroom as he slept before dumping Ancona's body in a wooded area near Belgrade.

Investigators found "extensive blood evidence" in Ancona's home in Leadwood on Saturday. St. Francois County Sheriff's Detective Matt Wampler wrote in a probable cause statement that Malissa Ancona told police she shot her husband and attempted to cover up the crime, the Post-Dispatch reports.

St. Francois County Prosecuting Attorney Jerrod Mahurin declined to discuss a motive for the killing.

"I don't believe for a second that he did it," said attorney Eric Barnhart, who represents Jinkerson in an unrelated property damage and attempted theft case.

An autopsy conducted Sunday found Ancona died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head. He had been interviewed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and other outlets for his role as an "imperial wizard" in the hate group, his local leafletting efforts — and being depicted wearing a white hood and robe in front of a burning cross on the website for the Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

"The media will tell you the KKK is dead, gone, irrelevant," the website reads. "They have tried since the birth of the Klan to downplay the influence and power of the KKK … We cannot allow this. The time has come to awaken from our hypnotic sleep before we and our children wake up to a hell we can never escape from."

Washington County Sheriff Zach Jacobsen said a US Forest Service employee found Ancona's car outside Potosi on Thursday, but he wasn't reported missing until a day later. Co-workers were concerned because he had missed two days of work, which was out of character for him, the Park Hills Daily Journal reports.

Officers interviewed Ancona's wife and his stepson at his home in Leadwood — where "all indications" showed Ancona had been killed, according to the newspaper. Malissa Ancona told investigators he disappeared after getting a call from work that he had to drive across the state to deliver a part.

Frank's son, Frank Ancona Jr., told police that other relatives said they had not heard from Ancona and a call to his employer verified that he wasn't sent across Missouri to deliver a part, the

Malissa Ancona St. Francis County Jail

newspaper reports.

Officers then entered Ancona's house, where they found an empty safe. Malissa Ancona told police that Frank Ancona said earlier that he was traveling out of state and intended to file for divorce when he returned, claiming he took all of his guns from the safe except the one he carried regularly as a concealed carry permit holder.

Malissa Ancona told police the threat of divorce prompted her to write a Facebook post seeking a roommate, but other relatives living nearby said Ancona would never have taken all of the firearms with him, the newspaper reports.

Ancona was identified in a 2014 story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as an imperial wizard with the Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a group at the center of a legal fight over a gathering of members at the Fort Davidson State Historic Site, a Civil War battlefield in Missouri.

Leadwood Police Chief William Dickey said Ancona was last seen by Malissa Ancona early Wednesday. On Saturday, authorities found evidence of a burn pile near Ancona's vehicle and later executed two search warrants, arresting one man on an unrelated drug charge. While officers were waiting for the warrant to be issued, Ancona's body was found, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports.

© 2017 NYP Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2017 NYP Holdings. All rights reserved.

Winners of camel beauty contest at Al Dhafra Festival crowned | The National

thenational.ae

TheNational
NationalLogo
Thursday, December 29, 2016 | Rabea Al Awwal 30, 1438

Winners of camel beauty contest at Al Dhafra Festival crowned

Winners of camel beauty contest at Al Dhafra Festival crowned

Winners of camel beauty contest at Al Dhafra Festival crowned

ABU DHABI // Camels owned by Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed, the President's Representative, have won top prizes in the camel 'mazayna' beauty contest at this year's Al Dhafra Festival.

Sheikh Sultan's camels won the Aayel category for the golden-red camel breed, originally from Oman. Camels belonging to Khamis Al Mazrouie scooped the Majahim category, the black camels of Saudi Arabia.

Held in Madinat Zayed in Al Gharbia from December 13 to 29, the 10th edition of Al Dhafra Festival was organised by the Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee - Abu Dhabi.

Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan bin Zayed crowned the winners on Thursday.

"The UAE leadership is committed to fostering and supporting heritage and cultural events, including the Al Dhafra Festival, which has become instrumental to educate young generations about their country's indigenous heritage, traditions and culture, and how to safeguard those," he said.

The two-week event also serves as an important channel to make future generations familiar with their traditions and cultural heritage. The Al Dhafra Festival continues to attract lovers of heritage from across generations, organisers said.

It draws visitors from different nationalities and offers them an opportunity to get acquainted with the main aspects of the UAE's national identity.

The event has earned a prestigious position, both regionally and globally, on the calendar of heritage festivals and contributes to the revival of

Winners of camel beauty contest at Al Dhafra Festival crowned

Winners of camel beauty contest at Al Dhafra Festival crowned

Arab heritage, said Wam, the state news agency.

newsdesk@thenational.ae

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Winston Churchill Contemplates E.T.s In Newly Discovered Essay

huffingtonpost.com

He started writing it just weeks after Britain entered WWII.

02/15/2017 05:22 pm ET
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post

Winston Churchill had something to offer besides “blood, toil, tears and sweat”: A willingness to consider the existence life on other planets.

A newly discovered essay called “Are We Alone in the Universe?” that Churchill started writing in 1939, just weeks after Britain entered World War II and before becoming prime minister, suggests that the possibility of sentient life on other planets was on his mind.

Churchill revised the essay in the 1950s, but it was never published. Sometime in the 1980s, it was given to the National Churchill Museum in Fulton, Missouri, and was discovered just last year by the institution’s director, Timothy Riley, according to the BBC.

Riley then let Israeli astrophysicist Mario Livio have a look-see for an article published Wednesday in Nature Journal.

In the piece, Churchill explains that life can survive only in regions where temperatures are between a few degrees of frost and the boiling point of water.

He then speculates that Venus and Mars are the only other planets in our solar system in that habitable zone.

However, Churchill also explains why life on other planets is more likely than not:

> *“With hundreds of thousands of nebulae, each containing thousands of millions of suns, the odds are enormous that there must be immense numbers which possess planets whose circumstances would not render life impossible.”*

Churchill also refuses to be so arrogant as to think that humans are the highest evolution of sentient life:

> *“I, for one, am not so immensely impressed by the success we are making of our civilization here that I am prepared to think we are the only spot in this immense universe which contains living, thinking creatures, or that we are the highest type of mental and physical development which has ever appeared in the vast compass of space and time.”*

Livio told The New York Times he was impressed by the piece.

“The most amazing thing is that he started this essay when Europe was on the brink of war and there he is, musing about a question about a scientific topic that is really a question out of curiosity,” he said.

Livio and Riley hope others get to read Churchill’s piece, but it will remain unpublished until copyright issues can be sorted out, according to the BBC.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Brr! Winter nights in Austria are cold for naked cyclist

yahoo.com

Associated PressJanuary 24, 2017

VIENNA (AP) — Bike riders know the challenge of dressing warmly when pushing the pedals in sub-freezing temperatures. One man in Austria didn't even try — he was naked.

State broadcaster ORF says the biker — nude and drunk — was detained after a nighttime joyride that included trying to steer his cycle through the revolving door of a hotel, pulling a fire alarm and then dropping his bike to sprint through part of the southern city of Villach with police in hot pursuit.

Not much else was hot. ORF said Tuesday that temperatures dipped to minus 13 Celsius (8.5 Fahrenheit) late Monday, the night of the caper.

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Witchcraft banned from football after bizarre coincidences freak out players

By Kelly-Ann Mills 14:16, 28 DEC 2016 Updated 15:56, 28 DEC 2016 News

mirror.co.uk

A footballer playing in a match earlier this month apparently performed a ritual mid-game and within seconds he scored a goal

**

African football chiefs have been forced to outlaw witchcraft - over fears players are using it to gain an unfair advantage in matches.

In a game between Rwandan Premier League teams Mukura Victory and Rayon Sports, a player apparently performed a ritual mid-game, and within seconds scored a goal.

In the video footage Rayon's striker Moussa Camara, whose team was losing 1-0, can be seen missing a goal, by hitting the bar.

He then dashes to the goal and seems to lean a small object against the post.

Camara is then chased away by an angry goalkeeper from Mukura.

But as the game restarts, Camara scores, pulling his team back level.

The incident, was one of many that have caused the FA to act.

It has decided to fine any player seen to take part in witchcraft, with a 100,000 Rwandan Francs fine - equivalent to around £99.

If a club has been involved they will lose three points and face a fine of 2.9million RWF (about £2,890).

Vedaste Kayiranga, vice president of the Rwanda FA said: "In FERWAFA (Federation of Rwanda Football Association) statutes we don't have any law punishing the use of witchcraft because there is nowhere in the world where it has been proven that it can influence the outcome of a game.

"However, with the violence between players because of allegations that one team is using it, we have decided to enact laws."

Jimmy Mulisa, former Rwandan international added: "It is sad that we still have such beliefs in our football, it does not only give a bad image to the country but kills football development.

"I think [the FA] should take serious measures against such behaviour.

"Personally, I don't believe in it, and I had to cut short my playing career because many teams I played for believed in witchcraft which I didn't."

The game between Mukura Victory and Rayon Sports ended 1-1.

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Woman cut off boyfriend's penis after he said he was marrying someone else

metro.co.uk

Tanveer Mann for Metro.co.ukFriday 27 Jan 2017 3:08 pm

The 20-year-old used a sickle (pictured) to slash the man's penis (Picture: Mydrim Jones)

We can understand this poor woman's utter devastation at finding out her lover wanted to marry someone else.

But she may have taken it a little too far when she cut off her boyfriend's penis in order to teach him a lesson.

The woman, who is 20-years-old, managed to lure him into her home, in Naugawan Darshan Singh, India, with a blindfold after telling him she wanted to have sex with him.

But when he entered, she grabbed a sickle and slashed off his penis so that he wouldn't be able to sleep with the new woman.

Yet when his parents found him in his bedroom in agony, he still covered for his girlfriend of four years by claiming he had chopped it off himself.

A police officer said: 'He told doctors he cut his privates on his own.'

The man is now recovering at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital (Picture: Mydrim Jones)

Anil Upadhya, Kotwali police chief, said: 'A case of attempted murder is being registered against a 20-year-old girl who is a neighbour of the victim.

'They loved each other but the boy's marriage was fixed with some other girl as both their parents had some caste issue.

'She was unhappy as the boy's marriage was arranged with another girl of his own caste from the same village.

'The girl invited the victim to her residence and cut off his private part using a reaping hook under the pretext of having a physical relation.'

The girl has now been arrested and charged with attempted murder.

The sickle, which is used for cutting crops, has also been recovered along with the severed penis.

The man is currently recovering in Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Rewa but doctors say they are unlikely to be able to reattach his penis.

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited

Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Woman leaves entire $1.2 million estate to animal shelter

yahoo.com

Associated PressDecember 28, 2016

ELIZBETHTON, Tenn. (AP) — A Tennessee woman's $1.2 million estate has gone to the dogs — and cats, too.

The Johnson City Press reports (http://bit.ly/2i7KrqN) Glenda Taylor DeLawder's bequest to an animal shelter was announced Christmas Day on the Carter County government website by Mayor Leon Humphrey.

Humphrey says $540,000 will be given to the Elizabethton Carter County Animal Shelter to expand the dog and cat holding areas. It also pay for a new van that can be converted to transport dogs and cats to be spayed and neutered.

Construction will begin on the shelter expansion Jan. 9, and Humphrey says the van is scheduled to arrive by March 1.

DeLawder, who is described by her family as being an avid animal lover, died in November 2015.

___

Information from: Johnson City Press, http://www.johnsoncitypress.com

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Woman suffers horrific injuries after being ‘ripped to pieces’ by kangaroo

msn.com

Australian Women's Weekly
17/1/2017

A personal trainer has had to undergo emergency surgery following a kangaroo attack.

Debbie Urquhart, 54, says the roo ripped her biceps and deltoid muscles down to the tendon, and she suffered cuts and abrasions on her back. She suffered multiple wounds and her arms and buttocks had to be stitched up in Austin Hospital.

Ms Urquhart was mauled as she went her morning jog in Melbourne’s north-east.

She said the roo repeatedly kicked her and “threw me around like a rag doll”.

“He ripped me to pieces,” she continued.

The PT ran 500 metres back to her home after pretending she was dead to stop the attack.

"I was running through a little track in the grass and he came out of nowhere," Ms Urquhart told 3AW.

"He was massive ... he knocked me down and I was screaming and the more I was screaming, the more he was going for me.

"He sort of pushed me down with his back feet and then just sort of clawed at me, by me protecting myself, that's how my arm was ripped so badly, he could have got my stomach or something.

"I was trying to protect myself and then as soon as I stopped screaming he stopped, and I hid in the grass, I sort of crawled away."

Ms Urquhart said she’s determined to bounce back from the attack but she won’t be running near the track again.

© 2017 Microsoft

Woman Tries To Shovel Snow In T. Rex Costume, Hilarity Ensues

huffingtonpost.com

T. Rexes didn't evolve for this.

02/10/2017 01:35 pm ET | **Updated** 13 hours ago
David MoyeReporter, The Huffington Post

Maybe it wasn't an asteroid that killed off the dinosaurs. Maybe it was shoveling snow.

That's the very unscientific observation made after watching this video of a Massachusetts woman attempting to shovel snow in a T. Rex costume.

Leslie Haasch, a YouTuber based in Hull, decided it would be fun yesterday to wear her trusty T. Rex costume to clear off the snow around her house.

But fun is a relative term — especially when you're wearing an inflatable costume in 50 mph winds.

Haasch told HuffPost: "It turned me into a kite."

Copyright © 2017 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.
Part of HuffPost • HPMG News

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

Pictured: First woman who EVER voted in Britain after election mix-up

08:20 EST, 29 January 2017 | dailymail.co.uk

Pictured: First woman who EVER voted in Britain after electoral roll mix-up gave her the vote seven years before any other female

- **Frances Connelly voted in the 1911 by-election in South Somerset, by accident**
- **An official wrongly thought she was Francis, a male, and sent her a polling card**
- **After some considerable debate it was decided they couldn't stop her voting**
- **Women over 30 were finally given the vote in 1918, and all women in 1928**

By South West News Service and Chris Summers For Mailonline

Frances Connelly (pictured) was allowed to vote in 1911 after her Christian name was mistaken as belonging to a man

More than a century after she became the first woman to vote in Britain - seven years before any other female - Frances Connelly's extraordinary story has emerged.

She made history in 1911 - seven years before women were enfranchised - when she was accidentally sent a polling card for a by-election when the authorities wrongly assumed she was a man.

Ms Connelly attended a polling station at the Town Hall in Yeovil, Somerset to vote in the 1911 South Somerset by-election.

Stunned by the sight of a woman with a polling card, the Conservative agent, Harold Fletcher fell into deep discussion with W T Snell, barrister of the Western Circuit.

They queried her right to vote with presiding officer, W W Henley, but he agreed he had no choice but to let her vote because her name was on the electoral register.

The rules simply dictated she had to be the person on the register card and had not previously voted in the election and did not say anything about her having to be male.

Ms Connelly voted for the Conservative candidate, Aubrey Herbert, who narrowly lost out to the Liberal, Sir Edward Strachey.

It is thought an official had mistaken Frances for Francis and gave her a polling card assuming she was a man.

Before the First World War Suffragettes protested in various ways for women to be given the right to vote. Suffragette Emily Davison died under the hooves of the King's horse at the Derby in 1913 (pictured)

The Suffragette movement campaigned for a decade before the First World War for women to get the right to vote.

In June 1913 one protesting Suffragette, Emily Davison, died under the hooves of the king's horse, Anmer, during the Derby at Epsom.

But most Suffragettes protested peacefully and non-violently.

A report from a local newspaper at the time of the 1911 by-election reads: 'The election will be remembered for the first time in the history of the constituency a woman claimed and was allowed to exercise the Parliamentary franchise.

'At the very moment a Suffragist's car was touring Yeovil displaying to an amused crowd the legend "Mothers want votes", a lady was putting her cross against the name of Mr Aubrey Herbert - at least she is supposed to be on the Unionist side - at the Town Hall.

The Suffragette Movement, led by Emmeline Pankhurst (pictured, left, making a speech in 1910), protested vigorously for women's suffrage before the First World War but had to wait until the war was over for women to finally be able to vote (right)

'The point was carried, and Mrs Connelly voted. What is more her vote was recorded in the ordinary way - not upon a "tendered" paper - and was counted with the others.'

Women first got the vote in 1918 but the privilege was reserved only for wealthy, land-owning women over the age of 30.

The rest had to wait until 1928, before full suffrage was introduced.

Ironically Ms Connelly died in 1917, at the age of 48, and never lived to see women get the vote.

But at least she died, having voted.

Helena Bonham Carter (pictured) played a Votes For Women campaigner in the film Suffragette, which came out in 2015

Comments (40)

The comments below have not been moderated.

ManOfKent, Kent, United Kingdom, 7 minutes ago

You'd hope that a national news site would be able to get basic facts right, wouldn't you? Some women had the right to vote well before 1911.

Lukesenior, Dewsbury, about an hour ago

It's often forgotten that the number of women granted the parliamentary vote in 1918 was greater than the number of men eligible to vote in 1910, or that votes for women was backed by the vast majority of men, including MPs, who overwhelmingly voted in it's favour. It was far from a men vs women issue as is often portrayed now. Probably the only reason women's voting rights weren't extended as far as men's in 1918 (over 5m men were granted the vote in 1918) was that men had been conscripted during WW1 and had died in vast numbers, women hadn't, with some men only getting the right to vote because they were veterans.

corolla sedan, nsw, Australia, about 2 hours ago

You do not vote you are just fooled by elite which is laughing behind your back.

Ignorant84, Scunthorpe, United Kingdom, about 6 hours ago

Women voting. ..what next. ..women in paid work? By jove! Scandalous. ...

Doomed Clocktower, London, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Erm this is from 1911

Doomed Clocktower, London, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Why are you bringing up news from 1911?

stan1962, Southampton, United Kingdom, about 8 hours ago

Get ahead , get a hat.

robesac, Thornaby on Tees, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

Now that's a hat.

rosemary, derby, United Kingdom, about 11 hours ago

2017 And the rich are richer than ever....but millions still struggle .

here, not there, Syria, about 11 hours ago

the way things are going we will need to IQ test people before they get a vote or at the very least bar all those who own a pit bull type dog and/or have tattoos on their necks

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

/* Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }

Woman's body found in ship's ventilation shaft four months after she vanished

metro.co.uk

Richard Hartley-Parkinson for Metro.co.ukMonday 2 Jan 2017 3:27 pm

Imelda Bechstein, 74, is believed to have spent at least 24 hours down the lift shaft before she died (Picture: CEN)

The body of a woman who went missing on a cruise four months ago has been found in a ventilation shaft on the vessel.

Imelda Bechstein was on her way home from holiday in Sardinia when she apparently walked into an engine room and fell into the shaft.

Her husband, Ernst, said that she could sometimes become disorientated and now believes the crew could have done more to help find the 74-year-old when she went missing.

The couple had been sunbathing on the boat's lounges as they headed back to Munich when Ernst fell asleep.

Mr Bechstein said: 'We rested in sleeping-chairs. When I woke up later, my wife had disappeared.'

They were on a ferry on their way home from holiday (Picture: CEN)

The pensioner looked all over the 'Sharden' ferry, which can carry up to 2,908 passengers and 850 cars, but could not find his wife.

The captain ordered for the ship to be searched from top to bottom leading to the belief that Mrs Bechstein had fallen overboard.

But now it has been reported that her body has been found on board the vessel in the crew's maintenance shaft.

Mr Bechstein said: 'She should not have been able to enter the engine room area, it should have been curtained off.'

And he said if the crew had searched properly 'she might still have been alive.'

Recent autopsy results showed that Imelda had died the night after she vanished and no other signs of violence were found on the body other than injuries from falling down the shaft.

The body of the woman is still held in Genoa as the public prosecutor has not given a green light yet to release it.

According to local media, investigations are currently being carried out against the captain and some others for negligent killing.

Mr Bechstein said he just wants to see the body of his wife return home as soon as possible.

He said: ‘I want to be able to at least bury my wife. She should finally find her last resting place.’

© 2017 Associated Newspapers Limited
Back to top

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

'Ghosts' caught on camera stealing computers and printer

By Kara O'Neill 11:37, 11 JAN 2017 News

mirror.co.uk

Worst disguise ever? 'Ghosts' caught on camera stealing computers and printer in bizarre CCTV footage

The two ghosts stalked up and down the corridor before entering a room and removing valuable equipment

Two 'ghosts' have been caught on camera as they stalked up and down corridors of a building - before stealing computers and printers.

The spectres were spotted by security guards watching to footage as they marched up and down the hallway with expensive equipment in their arms.

Of course, the eerie ghosts were actually two men who had come up with the ingenious idea to put white sheets over their heads in a bid to hide their faces.

In the clip, both men walk up the corridor before disappearing into a nearby room.

When they return, they are both carrying large objects in their arms, reported to be a selection of computers and printers.

The men go back and forth several times to collect the equipment, presumably dumping it all in their vehicle outside.

The clip was reportedly filmed in Brazil and has already had several thousand views on LiveLeak.com in less than 24 hours.

One viewer wrote: "Best ghost video ever," while another added: "Stealth level: 100."

It is not clear whether the incident was reported to police.

- © 2016 MGN Limited

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*

You could rent a cowboy boot-shaped house in Huntsville

khou.com

Chelsea Cunningham, KVUE12:06 PM. CST January 06, 2017

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS - Gathering inspiration from the infamous poem 'The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe', a home for rent 70 miles outside of Houston hopes to give you the same feel.

Artist and builder Dan Phillips of the Phoenix Commotion designed the whimsical "Cowboy Boot House" in his hometown of Huntsville, Texas, according to a real estate listing by Har.com.

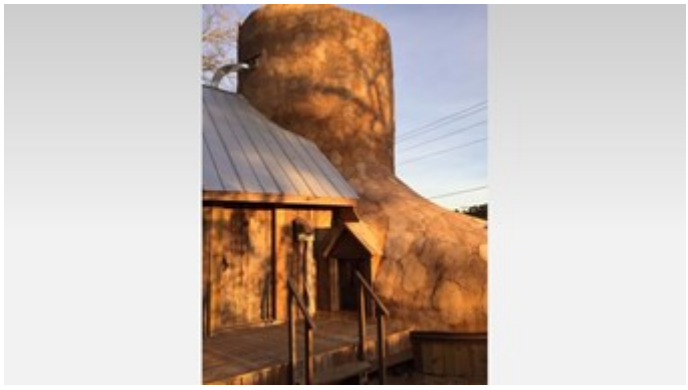
The house, set to rent for $1,200 a month, has two bedrooms and one full bathroom with custom mosaic granite flooring, high ceilings, and a spiral staircase that leads to a rooftop deck.

The home was featured on an April episode of Zillow Homemakers where the designer described his inspiration for his original and energy efficient homes.

"I've always been fascinated since I was a child to build houses that looked like the houses in story books: to do child-like designs and use a lot of whimsy," he said in the Zillow clip. " A life without whimsy is certainly a non-life."

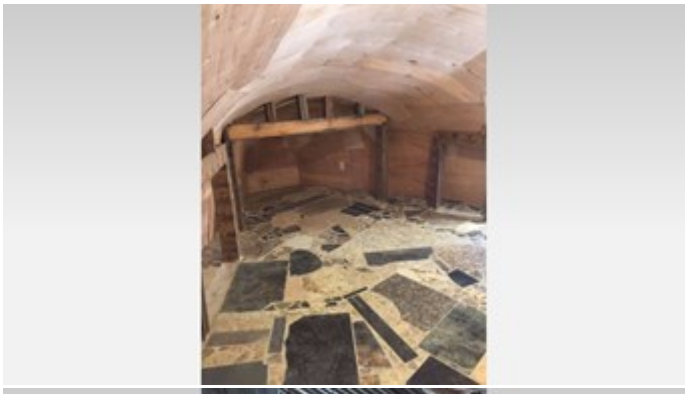
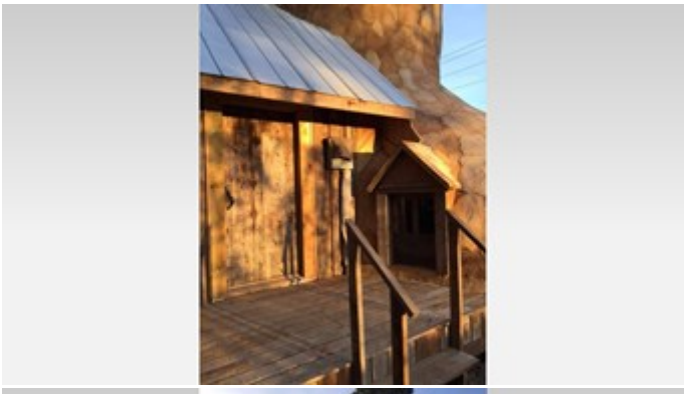
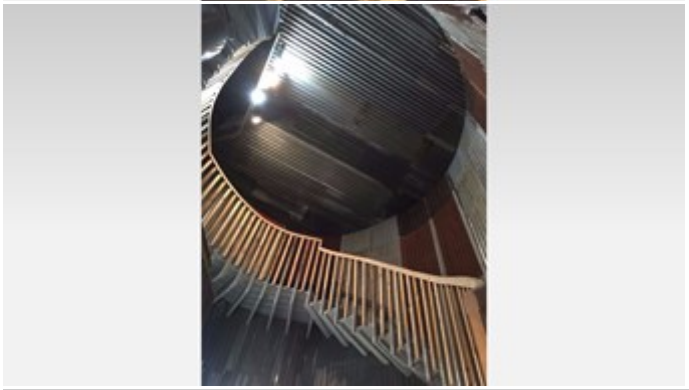
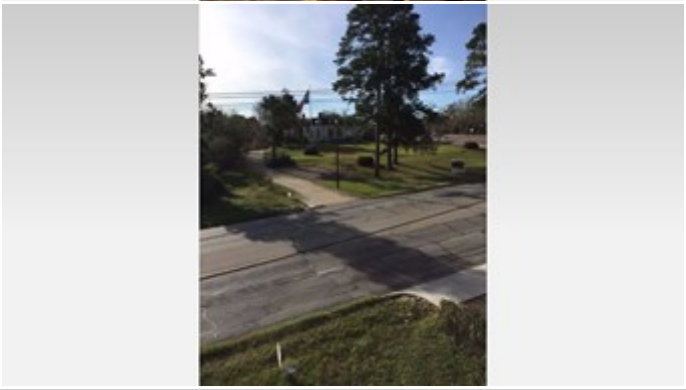
According to My San Antonio, real estate agent Dalene Zender said Phillips is working on a "Cowboy Hat House" that will neighbor the boot.

The Cowboy Boot House should be completed and ready for move-in by early February.



(© 2017 KVUE)

FCC Online Public Inspection File • EEO Public File Report

/ Copyright 2014 Evernote Corporation. All rights reserved. */ .en-markup-crop-options { top: 18px !important; left: 50% !important; margin-left: -100px !important; width: 200px !important; border: 2px rgba(255,255,255,.38) solid !important; border-radius: 4px !important; } .en-markup-crop-options div div:first-of-type { margin-left: 0px !important; }*